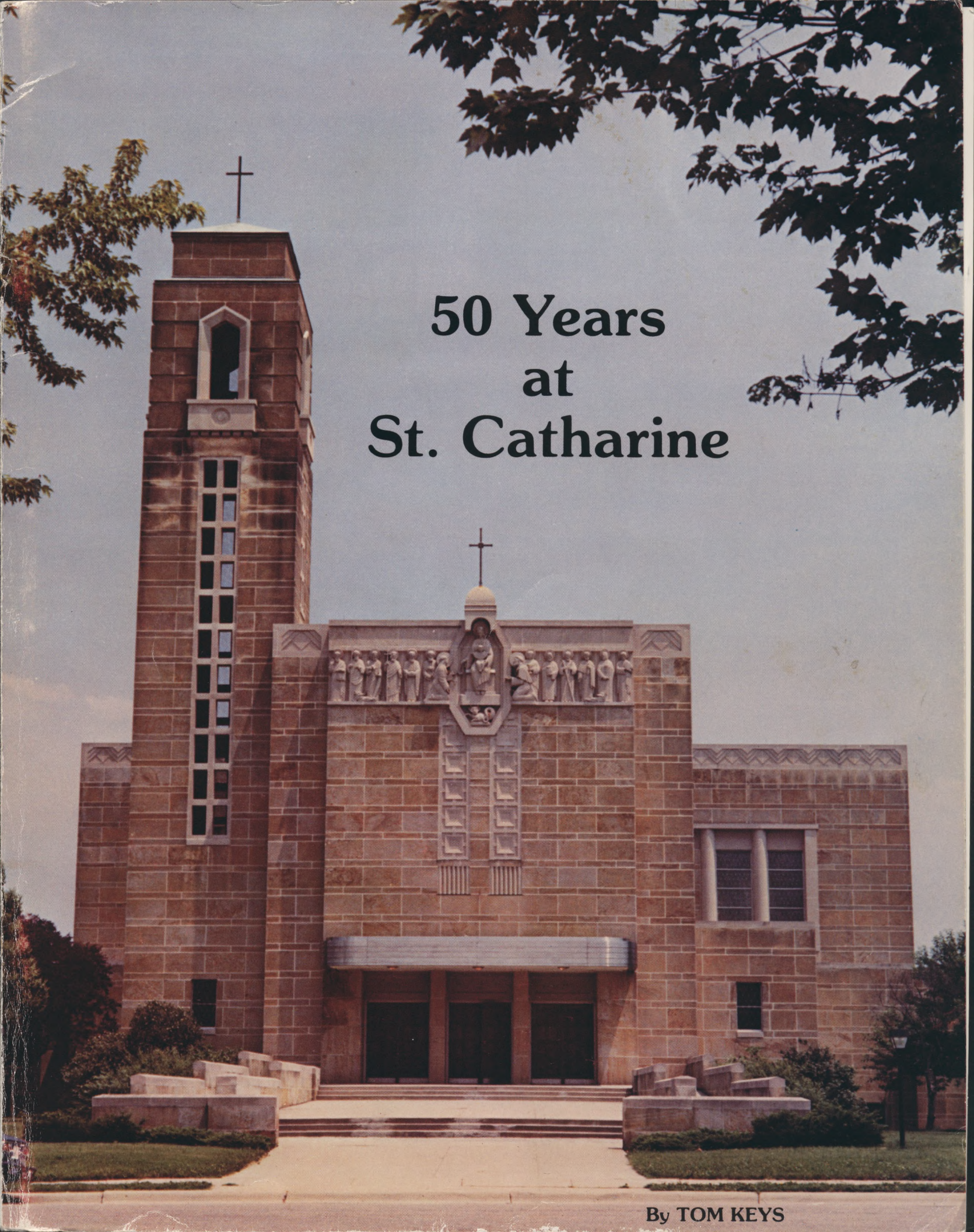




50 Years at St. Catharine

By TOM KEYS

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50 YEARS AT ST. CATHARINE is dedicated to all members of St. Catharine Parish, past and present, to all our pastors, assistant pastors and administrators; to all the nuns and lay teachers who enriched us intellectually as well as spiritually, and to all our non-Catholic neighbors in Bexley and Eastmoor.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword by Fr. Borrelli	2
Letter from Apostolic Delegate	3
Letter from Bishop Herrmann	4
Letter from Bishop Fulcher	5
Letters from Mayors Moody and Madison	6
From the early days of St. Catharine	11
St. Catharine First Families	22
St. Catharine School	32
Pastors at St. Catharine	43
Farewell to Msgr. Casey	46
Assistant pastors at St. Catharine	48
Our Pries Sons	50
Sisters from St. Catharine	55
Altar Rosary Society	57
Religious Education	61
St. Vincent DePaul	63
Bexo Club	65
Home-School Association	69
Girls Athletic Program	70
Boys Athletics	72
Behind the Scenes	77
Patrons List	84
Our Patron Saint	88

50 years

at St. Catharine

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Mrs. Joseph Brosmer and Mrs. William Brennan	St. Catharine School
Mrs. Patricia Skeele	Religious Education
Mrs. James Murphy	Home-School Association
Frank Cafarella and Dan Cannon	St. Vincent dePaul Society
Bob Koerner, Bud Murphy, Paul Tracy	Bexo Club
Mary Ann Brown	Girls Sports
Jim Klunk and Felix Pedon	Boys Sports
Don Smith	Behind the Scenes

Ed Keys	Art Editor
Tony Shannon	Photographer

FOREWORD

This book, "50 Years at St. Catharine," reflects the spirit of St. Catharine that has been all but a trademark since the parish drew its first breath 50 years ago . . . sacrifice, hard work and a willingness to meet a challenge.

And, as always, many contributed to the success of the book. We are especially indebted to the numerous chair persons who researched the material for the author to our official photographer, Tony Shannon, and to all who loaned pictures or helped in any other way.

This is not intended as a history of St. Catharine. Volumes would be required to detail all that has happened since Sept. 13, 1931. But the high spots are there. And some low spots.

After reading "50 Years at St. Catharine," you will know more about your parish than you ever knew before. I, myself, have learned a great deal after reading galley proofs of the book.

All parishoners, new and old, will find one chapter of the book especially interesting. This deals with the 76 families, out of an original list of 100, whose roots have been traced by the author after numerous meetings and more than 800 phone calls. You will discover that there are no less than ten four-generation families who have worn St. Catharine's "stamp of approval" for all 50 years. Furthermore, you will learn of the whereabouts of the sons, grandsons, daughters and granddaughters of your next-door-neighbor of 50 years ago in this Roots-like chapter.

The book is loaded with facts you will treasure: a listing of all pastors and assistants; all the priest-sons and nuns from St. Catharine; the names of every sister and lay teacher at St. Catharine School as well as the years they taught here; the presidents of the Altar Rosary Society, Parish Council and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"50 Years at St. Catharine" represents the first effort to paint a word picture of the parish; how it was in 1931 and what we have today. It is a very lively book that will prove entertaining and enlightening to every family in St. Catharine Parish.

And, if you will grant us time for a brief commercial, the book will make wonderful Christmas presents for friends and relatives who have moved from St. Catharine.

Rev. Anthony Borrelli, pastor



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

February 25, 1981

Dear Father Borrelli:

It is my honor to inform you that Pope John Paul II is pleased to impart his Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of St. Catharine parish in September, 1981.

The Holy Father is particularly thankful for the many graces which the Lord has given to the parish of St. Catharine this past half century. He rejoices with all who have been consoled by the message of Jesus and through this local parish have grown to understand and appreciate the Gospel and its fundamental meaning. Moreover, this Word has been nourished by the incomparable gift which is at the heart of the parish, - the Eucharist.

The fidelity of God for 50 years gives rise to justifiable hope for the future. Even on this occasion, however, the Holy Father wishes to remind you of those in need. "My thoughts and my word go especially to all those who are in difficulties of various kinds: to those who are suffering in the body and the spirit; to those who are going through trials of a social character, such as negative experiences at work or misunderstandings in the family; to those young people who are perhaps going through a moment of crisis; to those who are tackling difficulties of a pastoral nature, such as lack of understanding or indifference to spiritual values and resistance to the Holy Spirit. In Christ, every one has the right to hope."

Permit me to join my best wishes to those of the Holy Father. It is my heartfelt prayer that, through the intercession of St. Catharine, the patroness of your parish, the St. Catharine community will achieve ever greater unity and continue to grow in the authentic spirit of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the human person.

With cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Apostolic Delegate

Reverend Anthony Borrelli
Pastor: St. Catharine Parish
Columbus, Ohio



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

198 EAST BROAD STREET

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

Dear People of St. Catharine Parish:

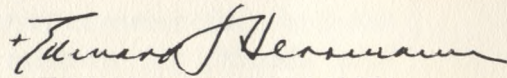
As you gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the presence of St. Catharine parish in the Columbus-Bexley area, it is good to remember that this event is really another segment in the long line of the christian community which reaches down to our present day. When we look back on the history of any parish, we should realize that all are, in one way or another, connected with Christ's presence in the formation of the church around his apostles. The presence of St. Catharine Church in our community of Columbus, is another visible expression of the fulfillment of Our Lord's wish that his work be perpetuated to the end of time. It is also a sign of the spirit that went into the formation of this parish.

The celebration of your anniversary is a two-fold celebration: firstly, to thank God for all of his blessings and gifts received through the presence of your church, and also to memorialize those who, in the very beginning, made possible what you celebrate today.

Therefore, I join with all of the people of the diocese in congratulating you as you celebrate your fiftieth anniversary. As you look back, I am sure that many of you can remember the beginnings; and more of you of course will remember what has happened in later years as this community developed as a living sign of God's presence. May you continue to be blest with the enthusiasm and grace which inspired those who celebrated the beginning of the parish. It is your christian task now to continue what they began and hand on the gospel message in celebrating God's love in word and sacrament.

With every good wish and blessing on all of you and thanking you for the support that you give those who are ministering to you, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,


+EDWARD J. HERRMANN
Bishop of Columbus

Saint Joseph Cathedral

212 EAST BROAD STREET • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
11 February 1981

The Reverend Anthony Borrelli
Pastor
Saint Catharine Church
504 South Gould Road
Columbus, Ohio 43209

Dear Father Borrelli:

It gives me great pleasure to offer my congratulations on the Golden Anniversary of Saint Catharine Parish.

As a life-long resident of Columbus I have watched the parish grow, from its beginnings to the large, dynamic christian community it is today. It is truly a Community of Faith, Worship, and Service called for in the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

Your beautiful church, school, convent and anticipated administration building are material signs of the achievements of the parish, but of course the reality is much more significant than these edifices. Spiritual life and growth are the accomplishments of your people responding to the call of Jesus Christ under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the graces of our Heavenly Father.

The parish has much to be congratulated for in the record of fifty years of service to God and others. But the vitality of Saint Catharine's will not diminish in the challenge facing you over the next fifty years. I know your clergy, staff, and parishioners acknowledge that challenge and welcome it so you may continue to grow as People of God and Body of Christ.

Be assured of my prayers and good wishes on this occasion and of my continuing interest in the parish.

With every good wish,

Very sincerely in Christ,

+ George A. Fulcher

+ George A. Fulcher
Auxiliary Bishop



CITY OF COLUMBUS
OHIO

TOM MOODY
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Members of St. Catharine Parish:

Heartiest congratulations upon the 50th Anniversary of St. Catharine Church.

No organization survives for 50 years without a significant record of service and accomplishment. St. Catharine Church is an institution that has contributed greatly to our community in more ways than can be counted.

Your work in uplifting the morality of all who come in contact with your church, and your acts of Christian charity have helped to lift the level of our age.

As you mark this golden anniversary, it is my hope and prayer that you will face the future with renewed dedication and vigor.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Moody
TOM MOODY, Mayor

TM: pm

City of Bexley, Ohio
2242 East Main Street, 43209 235-8694

City Council

John H. Offenberg, Pres.
Carolyn T. Wood
John M. Page
Frederick Mann
John T. Loehner
William N. Bellamy
James H. Gross
David H. Bodiker, City Attorney
John W. Hornberger, Auditor

David H. Madison, Mayor

February 20, 1981

Members of St. Catherine Parish
504 South Gould Road
Columbus, Ohio 43209

Dear Members,

Just a short note to congratulate you on your 50th Anniversary. Although St. Catherine's is not in the City of Bexley, we have always considered you a very important and integral part of our city. Many of our residents are members of your congregation, and the City of Bexley has always enjoyed a beautiful relationship with your church which we hope will always continue.

Many people say that St. Catherine's is a part of Bexley, and that is an honor for us, as your church has always been held in the highest esteem.

Again, please convey our congratulations to your entire congregation for your wonderful service to the community.

Very sincerely,

David H. Madison
David H. Madison
Mayor

DHM:db

50
YEARS
S.T. CATHARINE



POPE JOHN PAUL II



**MOST REVEREND
GEORGE A. FULCHER, S.T.D.
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF COLUMBUS**

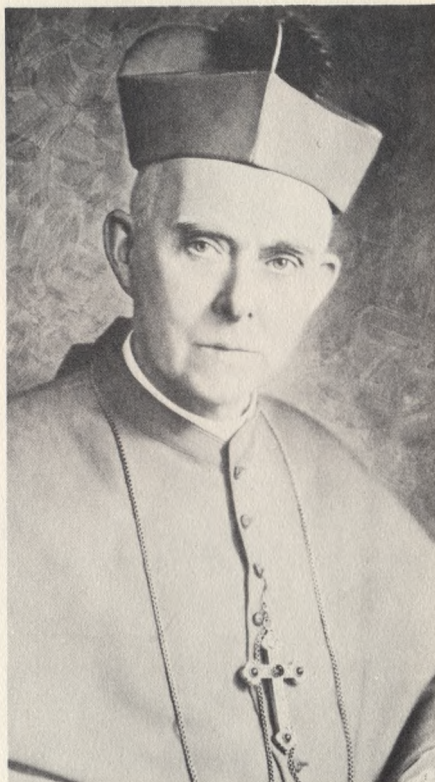
Ordained February 28, 1948; appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Columbus and Titular Bishop of Morosbido May 24, 1976; ordained Bishop July 18, 1976.

**MOST REVEREND
EDWARD J. HERMANN, D.D.
BISHOP OF COLUMBUS**

Ordained June 12, 1947; appointed Titular Bishop of Lamazella and Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D.C., March 4, 1966; consecrated April 26, 1966; appointed Bishop of Columbus, June 25, 1973; installed August 21, 1973.



**The Bishops
St. Catharine
Parishoners
Have Known**



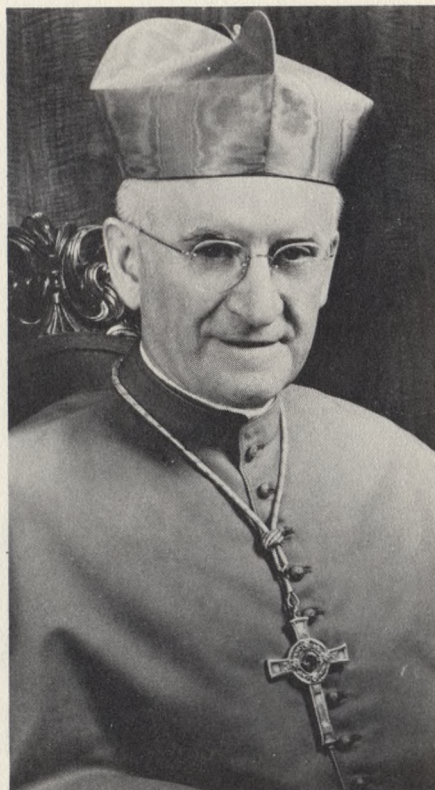
**MOST REVEREND
JAMES J. HARTLEY,
D.D.
1904-44**



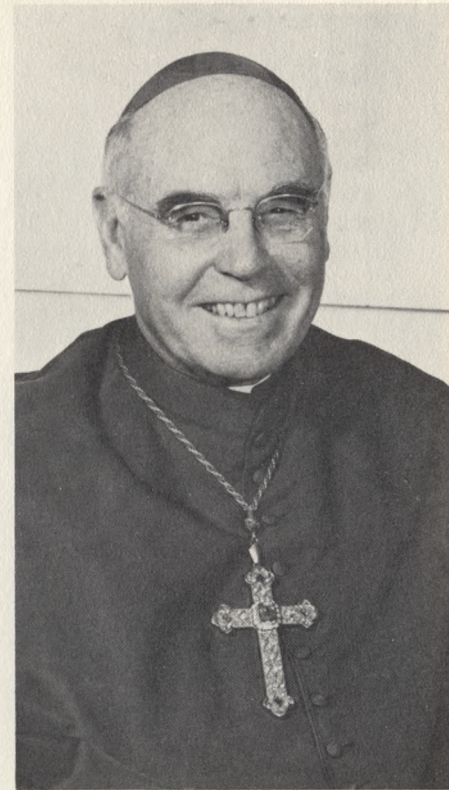
**MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL J. READY,
D.D.
1944-1957**



**MOST REVEREND
CLARENCE G.
ISSENMANN, S.T.D.
1957-1964**

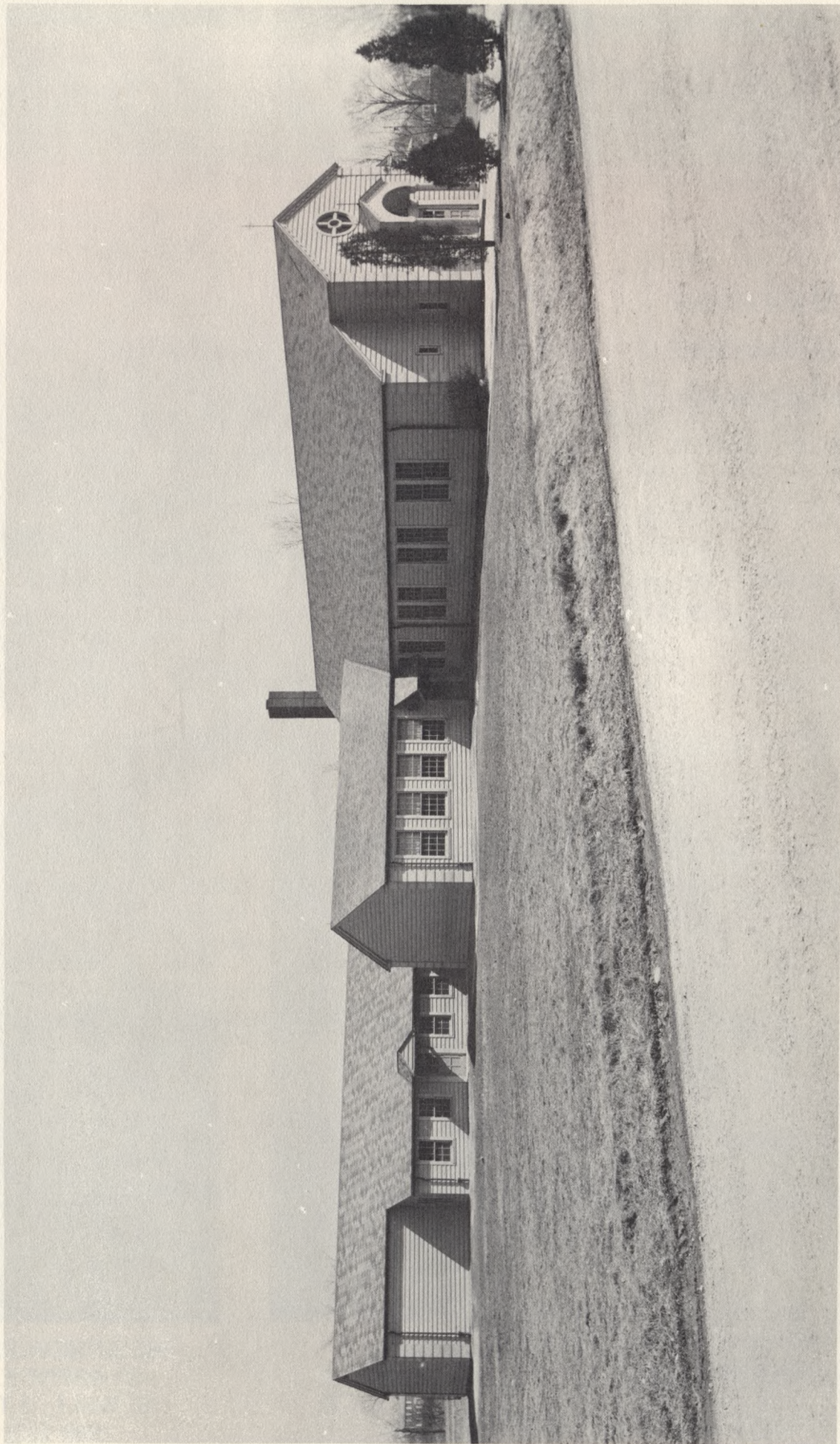


**HIS EMINENCE
JOHN CARDINAL
CARBERRY, S.T.D.
1965-68**



**MOST REVEREND
CLARENCE E.
ELWELL, S.T.D.
1968-1973**

From this Humble Beginning ---



AS WE STARTED—Turn the calendar back 50 years and this is what St. Catharine's chapel school looked like when the parish started in the fall of 1931. There was no rec-

tory, no convent. There were neither paved streets nor paved walks. This structure cost \$16,000. The three-room school was called, affectionately, "the pasteboard palace."

Introduction

Puffs of dust fell on the dark, undecorated automobile as the attentive driver and his pink-cheeked passenger toured the dirt streets of Bexley and the bucolic meadows beyond.

This was NOT your everyday drive to the grocery store. The two men, both skilled in the business of real estate, were on a shopping trip . . . for real estate. It was, in fact, a mission of historic note: historic, at least, to St. Catharine Parish as we know it today.

The small, somber, pink-cheeked man whose attire, by accident more than design, matched the black automobile, was Bishop James Joseph Hartley. His every vigilant driver was not a chauffeur. Hardly. Rather, he was a confidant and advisor in real estate matters to Bishop Hartley.

A mere nod of his head by the driver ended the search. And that same nod located the heart of a new parish, St. Catharine of Siena. In his mind's eye the bishop saw, in a plot adjacent to the eastern boundary of Bexley, much that we have today at St. Catharine: a beautiful church, a school and rectory. Plus a convent later used to house a cloistered order of nuns, but now serving as a Montessori school.

In a matter of months, on May 12, 1931, Bishop Hartley purchased 11.863 acres of land on the east side of Gould Road between Fair Avenue and Bexley Park Road.

"Country," is the simple description of this section of Bexley-Columbus by Miss Mary Corbett, a charter member of St. Catharine. Bexley was a small community at the time and there was only a scattering of homes in the eastern area of the new parish, bordered on the south by Main

Street and the north by St. Thomas Parish. People in the new parish had attended either St. Thomas or the other parish in East Columbus, Holy Rosary.

There was a gas line in Bexley Park Road. But it stopped 300 feet west of Gould Road. However, sewers had recently been installed in Gould Road and electric service and water were available.

There are a variety of stories dealing with the bishop's purchase of the property but, according to a copy of a warranty deed supplied by Myers Surveying Co. (Albert J. Myers), the 11.863 acres were purchased May 12, 1931, four months before St. Catharine's chapel/school was dedicated, from Guarantee Title & Trust Co., serving as trustee as of Dec. 26, 1930, for Paul M. Shaw, who, on that date, purchased the land from The Hansberger-Marion-Beery Co. Prior to April, 1920, the land was owned by George Miller.

CHRISTMAS, 1960—This is the way the original church looked for the tiny chapel's final Christmas in 1960. Contrast this with earlier pictures of the main altar, when St. Catharine's statue was prominently displayed. Poinsettias and two green wreaths were the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.





FIRST WEDDING—First wedding in the new St. Catharine Church united Rosalie Van Heyde and Lou Pilliod, Dec. 27, 1961. The celebrant is Msgr. Joseph Casey. First service in the church was Midnight Mass on Christmas of 1961.

Several original families have stated that Bishop Hartley first planned the church on East Broad Street, the present location of the Bexley United Methodist Church, 2657 East Broad. In fact, one family purchased a home on Ardmore "to be near the church and school."

It has been suggested by still another original member of St. Catharine that Bishop Hartley, after purchasing land on East Broad Street, changed his mind about the location of the church and school and traded the East Broad Street property for the land east of Gould Road.

Dr. Robert A. Byler, pastor of the Bexley United Methodist Church, denies any such transaction. In fact, he points out that the Methodist Church was built in 1928. Ground was broken in 1926.

Similar stories have been handed down from generation to generation. Another member of the parish heard for many years that her aunt had deeded the St. Catharine property to Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, first bishop (1868-

78) of the Columbus Diocese. The one weakness to this story, although it is possible but not plausible, is that titles of church property are transferred from bishop to bishop. Had the property's title been in Bishop Hartley's name in 1931, there would have been no need for him to purchase the 11.863 acres located East of Gould Road, South of Fair Avenue and North of Bexley Park.

The stories, whether fact or fiction, do not end there.

T. Vincent Martin purchased five lots on Fair Ave. in the mid-40s and it was believed by many in the parish that the property actually belonged to Bishop Hartley, but was held in Martin's name.

In connection with this story, it was believed by some that the bishop planned to build a high school in this general area. The late Judge Joe Van Heyde and his wife, Helen, owned property south of Martin's lots.

Vince Martin's widow, Catherine, and Helen Van Heyde dismiss all such stories as being unfounded.

"Dan Cronin made the down payment for the five lots that my husband purchased," says Mrs. Martin. When Vince died in 1959, Cronin received the money he used making the down payment and eventually the five lots were sold. Bishop Hartley, states, Mrs. Martin, was never involved with this property.

Helen Van Heyde, for years Columbus' City Clerk, says that the only overture made by a group that planned a school on the Van Heyde property was for an academy for Jewish youth.

Once he obtained the nearly 12 acres, Bishop Hartley, with the businessman in him taking over, engaged the services of an architect, Edward A. Ramsey. He was to make a study of the property and determine the location of future permanent buildings and a temporary wood chapel and school.

With profound foresight and no doubt an assist from the Almighty and his architect, Bishop Hartley determined at the outset that the permanent (present) church should face Brentwood Road with its east-west axis on that street, taking full advantage of the fact that the property was two blocks long. With Brentwood Road dead-ending at Gould Road, the church would be visible for a great distance from the west.

This master plan located the temporary chapel and four classroom school (fondly dubbed from the outset as the Pasteboard Palace) near the southwest corner of the property where it would not interface with the development of the main buildings, which, with the exception of the rectory, were to utilize the north portion of the property.

Bishop Hartley had plans for the temporary building drawn and awarded the building contract to Patrick McAllister & Son at a cost of \$16,000.

2.3 Million Catholics In Ohio

*Of the *2,356,405 Catholic in Ohio, 209,285 were from the Columbus Diocese. Largest of the Ohio Diocese is Cleveland with 951,000. *-Figures are through Jan. 1, 1979; source: The Official Catholic Directory.*

During construction of the temporary building, Bishop Hartley appointed Father Robert F. Coburn as St. Catharine's first pastor, in July, 1931. With the assignment of the 35-year-old Father Coburn, the need for a rectory arose. So, the architect prepared plans for a residence which was to be the temporary rectory and residence for a sexton. It wasn't all that temporary because it is still the rectory today.

In the plans for the permanent group of buildings was a more adequate rectory. But with the land to pay for as well as the chapel-school, a depression in full bloom and the great increase in population not yet in sight, expenditures were kept to a minimum.

Father Coburn's new parish numbered 491 men, women and children. The school opened with four nuns. There were six grades.

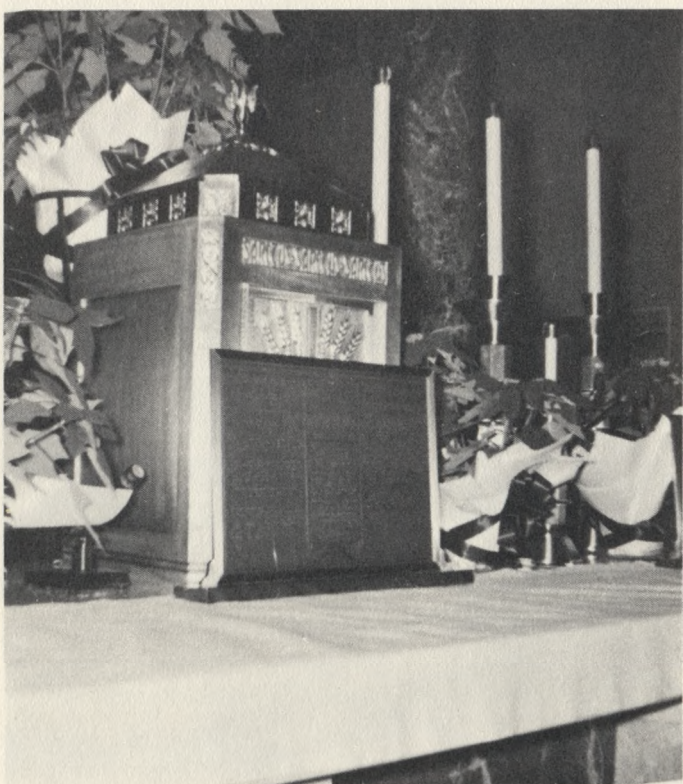
There were the conventional three alters in the small chapel with ivory statues, St. Catharine of Siena, the patron of the parish, being placed above the main altar.

Right Reverend James J. Hartley pontificated at the dedication of the chapel/school on Sept. 13, 1931.

Following the ceremony, Rev. Robert F. Coburn celebrated High Mass. Right Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Weigand, president of St. Charles, and the Right Rev. John J. Murphy, pastor of Holy Rosary, were deacons of honor to the Bishop, who presided. Rev. Edwin Murphy of St. Charles served as master of ceremonies. Also present in the tiny sanctuary were Revs. E. A. Burkley, James M. Ryan, Thomas A. Nolan, Anthony J. Schlernitzauer, J. B. Donahie, Joseph A. Cousins and Ambrose W. Schilling.

continued on page 20

TABERNACLE—This is the original tabernacle in the new St. Catharine Church.



BLESSING—The bell for the new St. Catharine Church was blessed in the photo above by Fr. Thomas McLaughlin. Sister in the background at left is Sr. Vivienne, principal and eighth grade teacher. Below, builder Norman Altman, checks bell.







END OF AN ERA

The four pictures on these pages told St. Catharine parishoners what they had already known, that physical appearances on the parish grounds were changing in the spring of 1962. The new church opened the Christmas before and now came time to demolish all but one wing of the original chapel/school after serving well for 30 years. On the opposite page (top) a bulldozer starts the wrecking operation and (below) one wing of the building is cleared. In the dramatic photo above, the building is seen toppling. But all is not lost (right) as one wing is salvaged for an office and library.



PROCESSION—Dedication procession was started by altar boys . . .



. . . followed by Father Mac and fellow priests . . .



... then came the bishops and other dignitaries



Parishoners gather as Bishop Issenman prepares to enter church.



DEDICATION—While the first Mass in the new St. Catharine Church was the Midnight Mass, Christmas, 1961, this picture is of the formal dedication on Feb. 4, 1962. Bishop

Clarence Issenmann presided. Monsignor Joseph Casey was pastor and the assistant pastor at that time was Father Thomas McLaughlin.



The Bishop preached an eloquent sermon, expressing his pleasure at the work completed thus far at St. Catharine, which he praised as "one of the nicest, neatest and most complete in the diocese."

Bishop Hartley then spoke on the life of St. Catharine, patron of the parish, giving a brief sketch of her life. He recommended to the people that they strive to imitate, especially her great love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, by loving to hear Mass and receive Communion frequently, every day if possible; her great charity and great devotion to the Holy See; and her unbounded confidence in Almighty God.

The bishop's first Mass, said in Rome, was at the tomb of St. Catharine of Sienna.

Following Mass, Bishop Hartley bestowed the Papal Blessing and all joined in the singing of "Holy God We Praise Thy Name."

Caught up in the Depression, Bishop Hartley strived and succeeded in holding down the debt to the new parish. In keeping with this thinking, plans were drawn for both the temporary buildings (chapel/school and rectory) and sites selected for permanent buildings (convent, rectory, a new and larger church and a much larger school) in the future. Clear proof of Bishop Hartley's foresight comes through in a story of the chapel/school dedication ceremonies when he revealed the permanent church should be about in the center of the property, facing Gould Road, and just opposite Brentwood.

And that is precisely where the church is located.

With the permanent church's location determined, it was possible to set the other parish buildings tentatively and a space was left near the southwest corner of the property which was considered ideal for the temporary chapel and school.



DEDICATION DAY—While the first Mass at the new St. Catharine Church was the Midnight Mass on Christmas, 1961, the formal dedication took place Feb. 4, 1962. Here, in the foreground, are Rev. John Thuis, O.S.B., who was in charge of St. Meinrad's Stone Quarry, and Margaret Swickard. The church was constructed of St. Meinrad sandstone, trimmed with Indiana limestone.



FIRST BLESSING—Receiving the first blessing of newly-ordained Father Thomas McCarthy, O.P., following his ordination in Washington, D.C., were his parents.

After considerable study, the plan selected was a chapel facing west with corridors and four school rooms arranged to the east of the chapel. This arrangement made it possible to use the chapel without entering the school, but provided access from the school to chapel without going outside.

Sixty-six pupils enrolled in the first six grades. At the beginning of the second school year, seventh and eighth grades were added. By the second year, enrollment had increased to 103 pupils, 53 boys and 50 girls.

Sisters of the Holy Cross, who staffed the school from the beginning lived at Mt. Carmel Hospital until 1938. At that time a new convent was erected on the northwest corner of the parish grounds and accommodations were provided for 10 sisters. They moved into their new home on Jan. 29, 1938. By this time the enrollment of the school had increased to 146 pupils, necessitating the addition of a new wing to the chapel-school building. This wing had two classrooms.

In August of 1945 the parish held a Field Day, commemorating the dedication of its new athletic field. That same year the Most Rev. Michael J. Ready was named bishop of the Columbus diocese, succeeding Bishop Hartley, who died in 1944.

By 1949 more classrooms were needed. Bishop Ready told Father Coburn, who at this time had the title of Monsignor, to proceed with plans for a new eight classroom brick school and parish auditorium-gymnasium.

The architectural design and plans for the \$400,000 structure were executed by Ramsey & Crocé and the construction work done by the Altman-Coady Co. The New Building was erected on Fair Avenue at Broadleigh Road.

In addition to the eight classrooms and gymnasium-auditorium, the building contained offices, meeting rooms, a library and cafeteria . . . modern in every detail.

The new facility was dedicated by Bishop Ready on Sept. 17, 1950, and school enrollment that year was 307. The number of families in the parish had grown to 700 by this time, a gain of 600 in 19 years.

Monsignor Coburn, who was named a Papal Chamberlain in 1934 and a Domestic Prelate in 1946, suffered a cerebral thrombosis in 1950 and was granted a year's leave of absence in September by Bishop Michael J. Ready. For the next 12 months, until Msgr. Coburn's return, Rev. Paul J. Bernier served as administrator.

On March 15, 1956, Msgr. Coburn died in Mt. Carmel Hospital. The 60-year-old priest, in poor health for several years, had been stricken by a heart attack a week earlier.

Bishop Michael J. Ready officiated at the Final Absolution and presided at the Office of the Dead and the Requiem Mass at St. Catharine's. Bishop Edward Hettinger offered the Mass, and Father Harry Estadt delivered the sermon.

Msgr. Coburn held numerous important positions in the diocese, but he spent all but nine years of his priestly life at St. Catharine. He was secretary to Bishop James J. Hartley and became chancellor of the diocese, a position he held until 1938.

He served as diocesan consultor (1932-46); promoter of justice (1936-45); and member of the Administrative Council (1934-38). As first director of the union of parish Holy Name Societies (1945-49), he organized the first big public religious demonstration in Columbus, a Memorial Holy Hour

in what is now known as Franklin County Stadium. On May 30, 1946, more than 15,000 crowded into old Red Bird Stadium for the event.

Born in Steubenville Dec. 31, 1895, Msgr. Coburn attended Holy Name elementary and high school there before enrolling at St. Vincent's College and Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., where he completed his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained Dec. 23, 1922 by Bishop Hartley. As a young priest, he served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph's Cathedral and as a professor of English and Latin at St. Charles Seminary.

St. Catharine's second pastor was a small, smiling, witty Irishman, Monsignor Joseph R. Casey. He succeeded Monsignor Coburn in June, 1956.

On May 2, 1957, Bishop Ready died and was succeeded in 1958 by the Most Rev. Clarence G. Issenmann.

Monsignor Casey had been at his new position less than two years when, in 1958, sketches for a new church were started and approved in the spring of 1959. However, before further work was done on the church plans, six additional classrooms were added to the school at the suggestion of Bishop Issenmann. The project was started in the spring of 1959 and finished for the opening of school that September. Trapp Construction Co. was the builder. By this time the parish school enrollment was 519 and the faculty included eight religious and four lay teachers. The number of family units in the parish had increased to 900 and the average Sunday Mass (six masses) attendance was 2,318.

On completion of the school addition, Monsignor Casey proceeded with plans for the new church. Edward Ramsey was the architect. On St. Patrick's Day, 1960, the contract for building the new church was awarded to the Altman-Coady Co. Ground breaking followed on April 3 and 17 months later, on Sept. 10, 1961, the cornerstone was set.

The church is constructed of St. Meinrad sandstone, trimmed with Indiana limestone. It is in the form of a cross, the Christian symbol par excellence.

The main altar was located in a sanctuary in the center of the church with seating on all four sides. Marble for this and the side altars came from Italy. The main altar, at a cost of \$25,000, was donated to the church by the Altar and Rosary Society.

The stations of the cross are of linden wood carved in West Germany.

A radiant heating system heats the church. Pipes in the floors do away with radiators and grilles. The building is air conditioned for summer comfort.

Construction was completed in time for the first mass to be offered Midnight Christmas 1961. Formal dedication of the church was on Feb. 4, 1962, by Bishop Issenmann. The seating capacity is 900. At this time the parish was made up of 979 family units and the average Sunday mass attendance in 1962 was 2,794.

The last Mass was offered in the old church on Dec. 24, 1961. But before the building could be demolished provisions had to be made to relocate the parish offices. It was finally decided to pour a concrete slab and move the office wing of the old church structure and attach it to the north side of the rectory.

The front of the office wing on the Gould Road side was

faced with brick to match the rectory and the addition fitted into the landscape quite unobtrusively. At the time of the remodeling, the meeting room adjacent to the parish office was converted into an adult library with an excellent selection of books. This room has been very useful for instruction purposes and various small meetings and parish functions. Alterations included installation of acoustical ceilings and the concrete floors were carpeted in the office and library area, providing quiet working space.

Finally, in October, 1963, the old frame church was demolished and a rectory-office and parking facility was provided on part of the site of the original church. Gould Road was widened and paved and sidewalks were provided. Eighteen years later, the landscape, generally improved by these changes, remains as it was in 1963.

The new church, with its expanded parking facilities and with easy access from three directions, has adequately answered the needs of the parish. From Bishop Hartley's original master plan, the only incomplete project . . . 50 years later . . . is the building of adequate living quarters for the pastor and assistant. And a modern office and meeting room.

During the five year period 1961-1965, the average attending Sunday masses increased by more than 500 persons per Sunday. The total attendance at six Sunday masses was 3,306 in 1965.

At the close of 1966 the number of family units had increased to 1,068. The total grade school enrollment was 488 and the faculty consisted of six religious and eight lay teachers.

Reaching a peak of 1,504 family units in 1970, that number has decreased, dropping to 1,116 in 1975 and 1,029 in 1980.

There were 324 pupils enrolled in the eight grades at St. Catharine in 1970 but there was a severe dropoff during the next five years. In 1975 there were only 198 students but by 1980 the figure stood at 250.

Poor health forced Monsignor Casey to take a leave of absence in January, 1970, and five months later he announced his retirement. St. Catharine had its third pastor with the appointment of Rev. John Soltis on June 16, 1970.

Father Soltis held the position only four years and was succeeded by Rev. William T. Rardin, a native of Chillicothe, in January, 1975.

Without a great deal of fanfare, Father Rardin revealed on July 3, 1975, that the debt on the church had been paid. For the first time in 44 years, the parish was debt-free. Almost.

However, the cost of repairs, insurance and the salaries of teachers mounted each year. As a result, the parish has never really been out of debt. In the summer of 1979, work on the undercroft was completed at a cost of \$25,011.50. Earlier, a three-car garage was built adjacent to the boiler room. Repairing doors, walls, ceilings and sidewalks at the church and school is, like cutting the grass on St. Catharine's 11.863 acres, an endless job.

That was the picture that greeted the parish's fifth pastor when Father Anthony Borrelli assumed his duties Aug. 16, 1978.

Nearly a decade before Fr. Borrelli's arrival, St. Catharine felt the first wave shock from the Vatican II Council. From the first change, when the Latin Mass gave way to English, to the

start of the Parish Council, to lay ministers and lectors and dramatic changes in the liturgy, most parishoners have learned to live with the new.

Through the transition, Fr. Borrelli and Associate Pastor Father James Ruef, have made every effort to make young and old in the parish comfortable with the changes.

Ten months before St. Catharine observed its 50th anniversary, the Parish Council approved construction of a Parish Administration Center that would include living quarters for the priests, offices and a meeting room. William Postlewaite, fifth to be elected to the position, was president of the Parish Council as this book went to press.

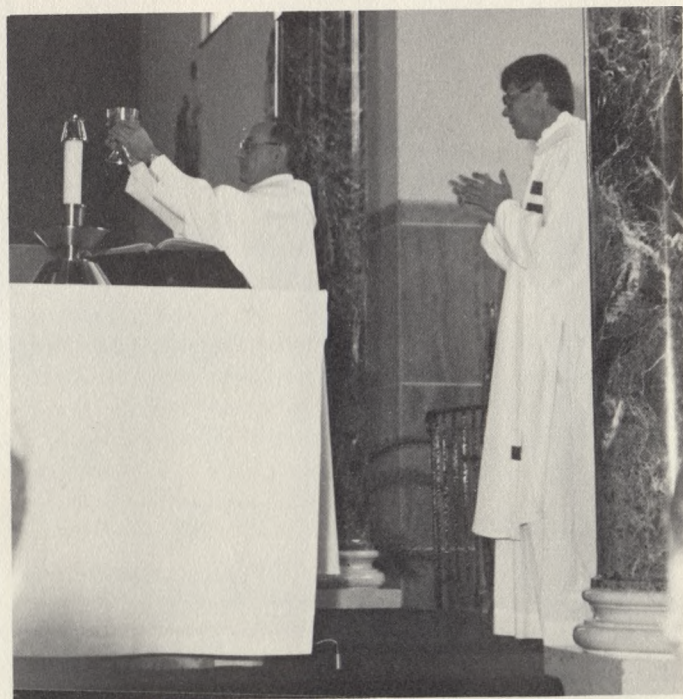
Studying the value of the property today becomes a lesson in big business. The world of finances has undergone great changes in the 50 years and St. Catharine has kept abreast of the changes.

Supporting the change is a financial report from one of the early years of St. Catharine when receipts for the year, including a \$7 balance on hand on Jan. 1, amounted to only \$17,904.74. Expenditures, counting a \$35.70 balance the following Dec. 31, naturally, balanced receipts to the penny.

Included in the receipts that year was the special collection Oct. 1 of \$3,350.45. "Father Coburn talked money once a year. It was always in the fall and the money was to buy coal to keep the school warm," recalls former parishoner Manley McGee.

That year, the biggest single expenditure was \$6,360.41 for the addition of two class rooms. Records show Father Coburn paid builders, plumbers, architect, etc., in cash. That same year, you could buy a fine, new automobile for \$800 or less.

MOTHER'S DAY, 1980—May 11, 1980 was very special at St. Catharine, both First Communion Day for many youngsters and Mother's Day. Concelebrating Mass are Fathers Borrelli and Ruef.



FIRST FAMILIES . . .



CONNOR CLAN—This is the start of one of St. Catharine's 10 four-generation families . . . the Connor clan. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Connor are shown with daughters Jean Connor Briggs, Kathleen Connor Miller and Ione Connor Yardley, and son John D. (Dick). Picture was taken about the time St. Catharine Parish started. Mrs. (Mary) Connor was the second president of the Altar Rosary Society.

FIRST FAMILIES

"In the early days of the parish there seemed to be a closeness with everybody anxious to work. I don't believe this spirit has ever been lost at St. Catharine."

High praise? Mark it down as fact, according to one of the parish's senior senior citizens, Miss Mary Corbett, who was a member of St. Catharine's when the parish was started in 1931 along with two sisters, Josephine and Helen. Another sister, Lucille, who was to join them later here, was teaching at Catholic University at the time.

The Corbetts lived for 53 years at 2457 Elm Ave. Helen died in July of 1978 and Lucille a year later. But Mary and Josephine make their home with a niece on Lakewood Rd. Helen managed the Cathedral Book Store for many years. The three other sisters were in education. After teaching for 43 years, Mary was librarian at St. Charles for 10 years.

Mary and Josephine Corbett have not been forgotten. Special Ministers from St. Catharine take Holy Communion to them every Sunday. "We watch the mass on television," said Josephine.

This is but one of more than 70 families interviewed from an original list of 100 that made up the brand new parish in Bexley and the far East reaches of Columbus in 1931 who have second, third and even fourth generation representatives at St. Catharine as we observe the parish's Golden Anniversary.

Believing that there would be great interest as to the present status of these original families, all of whom cooperated with the author in supplying this data current through 1980, this special section was added to the book. So, in no particular order, we present our pioneer families.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kramer, who later built at 420 S. Chesterfield Rd., were living at 709 S. Cassingham when the parish started. That was south of Main St., putting the Kramers, technically, in Holy Rosary Parish. "Even so, we attended St. Catharine from the start," says Mr. Kramer. He reports that the Bexo Club was formed in the basement of his home and recalled such charter members as Dr. Eddie Harris, Ray Eichenlaub, Ed Eberly, Tom Carroll and George Gugle, Jr., all deceased. But the Kramers live only a few blocks from their church of 50 years. They had two children, James, Jr., now living in Santa Fe, N. Mexico, and Mrs. Joseph (Caroline) Hammett of Medina, Ohio. James has five children and Mrs. Hammett two. As an eighth grade student at St. Catharine, James built the crib that has been used in the church down through the years.

Sam Dattalo was working the day St. Catharine's church was dedicated. But Mrs. (Rose) Dattalo and her three children, along with "a few others in the new parish," as she recalls it, witnessed that Sept. 13, 1931 dedication of the chapel-school. That was two years after the Dattalos moved to S. Ardmore, which has been home for 52 years. The three Dattalo children were Anthony, who lives with his mother; Phillip, in Florida, and Rose, who is a Holy Cross nun. More than 25 years ago, Rose became Sister Mary

Benedetta, CSC. She is in Pastoral Care at Mt. Carmel Medical Center. Mr. Dattalo died in 1963. Sister Mary Benedetta attended Bexley public schools before graduating from Ohio State with a major in education in 1944. She taught for several years, later entering the School of Nursing at Mt. Carmel Hospital. She graduated in 1950 and worked at the hospital for a year, at which time she entered the Holy Cross order. She made her first profession in 1954 and her final profession in 1957.

Before the chapel-school was built, frequently there was Sunday Mass for the early parishoners in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice S. Connors, at 78 N. Parkview. Mr. Connors, who was born in Toronto, Canada, was vice president of several railroads including the Chesapeake and Ohio.

M.S. and Mary Ellen Kane Connors were the parents of John Leo, Mrs. Patrick (Mary Agatha) Murphy, Eileen, Mrs. Henry Edwin (Gertrude) Drugan, Mrs. Jimmy (Mildred) Burke and Martha Jane Connors Brock Daily. This family tree was to grow and grow at St. Catharine's. From this clan, Barbara Drugan is one of several St. Catharine representatives.

A year before the new parish started, John Leo was transferred from Chicago to Columbus, as an executive with the Jeffrey Manufacturing Co., and his family settled at 104 S. Virginia Lee. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Connors had three daughters, Mrs. William (Virginia) Seery of Hartford, Conn.; Rosemary Connors of Carey, Ohio, and Mrs. Joe (Julie) Ryan.

The Seerys had four children. But it remained for Joe and Julie (Connors) Ryan to add, significantly, to the numerical strength of St. Catharine Parish . . . with five children and 23 grandchildren. The grandchildren of John L. Connors and great grandchildren of M.S. Connors via Joe and Julie Ryan are: Joe, John and Jim Ryan, with six, nine and five children, respectively; Mrs. Gary (Juliet) McInerney of Grand Rapids, Mich., (with three children) and Ms. Johanna Ryan. Johanna, along with her three brothers, live in Columbus but not in St. Catharine's parish. Joe and Julie continue to make their home on S. Chesterfield and are active in all parish activities.

In that first, small circle of St. Catharine families, there was also a Connor (no "s") family, which must have confused Father Coburn.

John A. and Mary Connor, who moved to 194 S. Columbia in 1928, were the parents of Mrs. R.E. (Jean) Briggs, Mrs. Edward W. (Kathleen) Miller, Mrs. Charles B. (Ione) Yardley and a son, John D., known as Dick. All but Mrs. Yardley are deceased. But Dick's son, another John Connor, and his family as well as Mrs. Yardley attend St. Catharine, thus stretching the John A. Connor contingent into a fourth generation for the parish. Ione had four daughters who attended school at St. Catharine.

The early law partner of John A. Connor was Harry Nester, another original member of St. Catharine's. The

Nesters, who lived on Stanwood Rd., had five children: John (Jack) of Cincinnati; twins Pat of St. Pius Parish and Ann of Lowell, Mass.; Harry (Bo) of Chardon, Ohio, and Marilyn Nester, a nurse at Mt. Carmel who takes care of her 82-year-old father. All attended St. Catharine school. Notre Dame and nurses tell much of the Nester history. Harry was a Notre Dame grad. So were Jack and Bo. Jack has two boys at the South Bend school and Bo has a daughter there. There are 31 grandchildren and four followed in the foot steps of Marilyn, as nurses.

Another pioneer family in the area was the Tracy clan. And some of them are still with us. Mrs. Tom Tracy moved to E. Broad Street in 1923. Mr. Tracy died in 1927. With her when the new parish started were her two sons, Paul and Cornelius, who now lives in Powell, Ohio. Paul and Ardene Tracy, who moved into a home on N. Ardmore in 1930 and built their present home on Bexley Park in 1938, are the parents of three sons, Tom, Joe and Johnny. Tom lives in Rocky River, Ohio, and has five children. Joe also has five and lives in Strongsville, Ohio. Johnny, in Jackson, Miss., has three. In addition to the 13 grandchildren, Paul and Ardene have seven great grandchildren. Tom was born Dec. 1, 1931, and was the third to be baptized at St. Catharine. Few families have been as active as the Tracys in church, social and athletic activities at St. Catharine.

When the parish started, there were nine Brosmers, including cousin Agnes, and Aunt Sara Hoffstetter, living at 2464 Bexford, where this big, friendly family first took up residency Jan. 5, 1927. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Brosmer are Rosemary, Joseph C., Dorothy J., Margaret M. and Carolyn A. Carolyn, the youngest, attended all eight grades at St. Catharine school. Margaret was at Holy Rosary for three years, transferring to St. Catharine when the new parish started. Margaret, Carolyn and Cousin Agnes, still reside at the Bexford Rd. home. Aunt Sara moved to St. Rita's Nursing Home in 1977. Mr. Brosmer died in 1959 and Mrs. Brosmer in 1973. Still in St. Catharine's parish is Joe Brosmer and his wife Ellen, who taught and was later principal of St. Catharine's school. Joe and Ellen have five children: Rev. Thomas Brosmer, pastor of St. Agnes in Columbus; Sister Beth, a Franciscan now located at Stella Niagara, N.Y.; Bill, a teacher in Buffalo; Bob, a Cincinnati who has provided Joe and Ellen with a grandson, and Kathleen, a teacher at Watterson High School in Columbus. Rosemary is Mrs. Edward Purcell and the mother of six. Dorothy, who has five children, is Mrs. Arthur J. Dugan. Rosemary and Dorothy live in California.

St. Catharine's first organist was also a charter member of the new parish. She was Elizabeth Richter, who along with her sister Florence and parents, John and Alice Richter, lived at Bryden and Drexel. There also was a brother, Lewis, and a sister, Sister Margaret, a Notre Dame nun. Of this immediate family, only Florence survives. She lives in Christ the King Parish but is represented at St. Catharine by two nieces, Mrs. Mike Burns and Mrs. Mary Ray and their families.

Edward F. Abram was another "charter member" of the parish who continues to have ties at St. Catharine. His daughter Mary Ellen (Mrs. A.J. Zuccarelli), along with Mr. Zuccarelli and their son Dan are members of St. Catharine's

parish, where mother and son attended grade school. Elizabeth Abram Connelly, Mary Ellen's sister, makes her home in Fort Worth, Texas. The Zuccarellis have two daughters, Mary, of Cincinnati, and Angie, who is married to Dr. J.T. Svinarich. Angie, who lives in Denver, has two children.

The E. Faber Biggert family composed of Mr. and Mrs. Biggert, two daughters and two sons, moved into the area seven months before St. Catharine's church was dedicated. At the time they resided at 175 S. Cassady. Mr. Biggert was vice president and general manager of the southwest area of the Ohio Bell Telephone Co., a firm he served for 40 years. Sons Brendan and Frank are with the same company, Brendan in Cleveland and Frank here. Brendan has four children, Frank nine. Frank is a member of Immaculate Conception parish. The two daughters are Mrs. Robert A. (Ruth) Riley and Miss Elizabeth C. Biggert, who continues to represent the family at St. Catharine's. Mrs. Riley has four children. Mr. Biggert, who died in 1965, was named a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Paul VI in 1964 "For personal character and reputation and for notable accomplishments." Long associated with civic and religious activities in the community, Mr. Biggert was chairman of the Diocesan Development Fund campaign in 1953 and also served as chairman of the fund raising appeal for St. Anthony Hospital's 120-bed addition dedicated in 1954. He was on the original committee which established the United Appeal campaign, served as vice president of the Columbus Hospital Federation, a member of the board of directors of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and president of Kingsbury Chapter 2, Telephone Pioneers of America. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Ohio State University in 1911. Mrs. Biggert died in 1974.

Mrs. Robert (Rosemary O'Donnell) Bell was in the first grade when St. Catharine school opened in the fall of 1931 and among a small group graduating 8 years later. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. O'Donnell also had two sons, James R. and William W., a Buckeye Lake resident who has one son. Rosemary has a son, John, in Hamilton, Ohio, and a daughter Melissa, a college student. James, who is a member of St. Catharine, has four children, Catherine, Richard, Timothy and Patricia. Catherine is married to John Stein and they live in California. Richard is in Canton, Ohio, Timothy in Gahanna and Patricia is at home.

Leo and Marie Rodenfels moved into the area two years before the parish started. Like the Biggerts, they had two daughters and two sons. The daughters, Mrs. John (Catherine) Dunkle, and Mrs. Roy (Loretta) Huller, are deceased as is Mr. Rodenfels. Two sons, Dick of Columbus, and John of Cleveland, survive along with Mrs. Rodenfels, who has been at St. Rafaels Home in Upper Arlington since 1977. John and Catherine Dunkle had four children who attended St. Catharine: Mrs. George H. (Catherine) Bare of St. Andrew's parish, Mrs. Norman (Kathleen) Burr of Gresham, Ore., Robert R., a member of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal parish in Reynoldsburg, and Chris Dunkle. The Dunkles were blessed with five grandchildren. Loretta had four children. John Rodenfels, who lives in Cleveland, is the father of seven. Dick is the father of four including twins Jim and Deedy (Mrs. John Duffy), along with Mrs. Pat (Patti) DeSantis and Susie, who is married to Air Force Col.

Don Marks. Jim still attends St. Catharine, Patti is in St. Andrew's, Deedy in Immaculate Conception and Susie moves around as the U.S. Air Force dictates. The Jim Rodenfels have three children in St. Catharine's CCD program, Tiffany, Jamie and Gregory, fourth generation parishoners.

Only surviving member of the immediate family of another member of the parish when it was started, Francis Eberly, is Sister Johanna Eberly, a member of the Dominican Order presently stationed at St. James the Less parish. Three sons, Francis, who was among the first to graduate from St. Catharine; John and Michael Eberly, are deceased.

As if Father Coburn were not confused enough by the Connors/Connor families, he had the Eberly family and the Eberles, and they were cousins even though they used different spellings. Edward M. Eberle and his wife had two sons, E. Michael Eberle and John Eberle, and a daughter, Joan. John, who is in Christ the King parish, has nine children. Michael has one son, John, and two grandchildren. Michael lives in the old family home at 111 S. Dawson and gives the Eberly/Eberle families their tie with St. Catharine. Joan is the mother of four. She lives in Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Gugle, Jr., lived at 504 Eastmoor Blvd. when the doors of St. Catharine opened for the first time. There were three children born to George and Ann Cannon Gugle. They were George III, Julie and John. The

father died a few months before John was born in February, 1943. Mrs. Gugle and her two sons are still members of St. Catharine. Julie, the mother of three, lives in Cocoa Beach, Fla. George III has five children and John has four. George's children are George IV, Lisa Ann, Monica Louise, Kathryn Rose and Mary Elizabeth. John Gugle is the father of John

MIGHTY MEN WERE THEY—One member of Columbus' most famous football family from 1907 to 1921 was one of St. Catharine's originals. He is Fred Nesser (far right), shown with his five football-playing brothers, all members of the Columbus Panhandles, the city's first entry in the National Football League. From left are Ted, John, Phil, Al, Frank and Fred. Al, a lineman who refused to wear a headgear, later played for the New York Giants and is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. There were two other Nesser brothers, Pete, the oldest, and Raymond, the youngest. Vera Nesser, Fred's daughter, remains a member of St. Catharine's parish.



Thomas, Angela Carroll, Jeffery Stanton and Kevin Cannon, born Dec. 30, 1980.

Mrs. Willard Eidson was another original member of St. Catharine's. Mr. Eidson, who was baptized a Catholic on his death bed, was active in parish activities and a dominant figure in the Bexo Club. The Eidsons had one son, Richard, and three daughters, Mrs. Nelson (Patti) Greene, who remains in St. Catharine's; Mrs. John (Mary Jane) Conlon of Birmingham, Mich., and Mrs. Tom (Virginia) Gurley of Orlando, Fla. Dick has one child, Patti has five, Mary Jane three and Virginia two. Dick, who is chairman of First Federal, played on St. Catharine's first championship football team in 1941. Mrs. Eidson died in 1973 and Mr. Eidson three years later.

John and Helen Varley moved to 25 S. Ardmore in 1929 and have lived in the home for 52 years along with son John, who attended St. Catharine School for the first six years, then transferred to St. Aloysius in New Lexington. The three Varley daughters, Virginia (Poisson), Marilyn (Cherry) and Linda (Hunter) were all married at St. Catharine's. Between them, the three daughters have 12 children. Virginia and Linda are members of St. Catharine parish; Marilyn lives in Pickerington. Virginia's children are Stephen, Lonett, Laura and Christopher. Linda has three children, Robert, Megan and Varley.

The confusion name game had one more trick to play on Father Coburn. Mrs. Joe (Julie Connors) Ryan, as noted, was one of St. Catharine's originals. So was her brother-in-law, Mike Ryan, and his wife Alice Hennessey Ryan. Michael J. and Alice Ryan had three king-sized sons, Mike, Tom and Pat. Young Mike celebrated his 50th birthday one year before (Oct. 20) St. Catharine marked its golden jubilee. He has six children and belongs to St. Andrew's parish. Tom, who is in St. Timothy parish, has two children. Pat lives in Detroit and is the father of three. Mike and Alice, both deceased, moved into 230 N. Remington Oct. 9, 1929. George Ryan, brother of Joe and Mike, also is in St. Catharine Parish.

The year was 1922 when Frank A. and Anna Rudholzner Tornos moved into 709 Maplewood Ave. They had five children. Two are members of St. Catharine and the other three are at Christ the King. Virginia Tornos and Mary Ann Tornos Fiaella attended Holy Rosary school until St. Catharine's opened in 1931. Frank Tornos, Jr., was a first grade pupil that very first year. Genevieve Tornos Virgin and Jim Tornos were the other children. Mr. Tornos died in 1952 and Mrs. Tornos in 1966. Mary Ann has three children, Frank, Jr., has one, Genevieve four and Jim seven. Frank and Jim are members of St. Catharine's parish. The three sisters are in Christ the King. Jim has seven children, Stephen, who is in Christ the King and has one child; Virginia, who makes her home in Alaska, and Elizabeth, Angela, David, Johanna and John, all at home. Frank Jr., has one son, Francis.

Four children were born to James J. and Olive E. McCarthy. They moved to 501 Northview Drive in 1928, where Mrs. McCarthy still resides. Mr. McCarthy died in 1970. The McCarthy's had four children, Mrs. Thomas (Pat) Farrell of Gahanna, Mrs. Phil (Mary Jean) Holdrieth; Jim, who died in 1975, and Tom, who is Father Thomas McCarthy, OP, pastor of St. Gertrude parish, Madeira, Ohio. Father Mc-

Carthy was St. Catharine's first priest/son. Mary Jean has eight children and remains in St. Catharine. Pat has six children and Jim, who lived in New Mexico, left six children. Mrs. Holdrieth's children are Mrs. Steve (Chris) Parker of Gahanna, Cathy, who teaches at St. Catharine, Phil Jr., Mark, Jeff, Mollie, Laurie and James.

The John W. Seidensticker family was in Bexley 21 years before Bishop Hartley told Father Coburn he was to head up a new parish, moving to Drexel Ave. in 1910. They were living on Dawson when St. Catharine started. There were four children, Norbert, who lives in North Carolina; Gwen, Bill and Mrs. Fred (Thelma) Kessler. Mr. Seidensticker died in 1943, Thelma in 1966, Bill in 1971 and Mrs. Seidensticker, at age 96, in 1978. Bill has two daughters in St. Catharine's, each with seven children. Gwen, still a member of the parish, spends six months here and six months in Scottsdale, Ariz. She has 36 great nieces and nephews.

Mrs. John Mykrantz (Mr. was not a Catholic) was in St. Thomas parish when they moved to Northview Drive in 1929. Their two children, John (Jack) and Christopher, attended St. Catharine school. Jack lives in St. Louis and is the father of four. Christopher, who has three children, lives in Detroit. Mrs. Mykrantz, who lost her husband in 1977, makes her home at Wyandotte East and still calls St. Catharine her home parish.

The year was 1921 when Mr. and Mrs. Herman E. Emig decided to move east, settling at 2551 Sherwood Rd. There were three children, Jane, who lives in Florida and was in St. Catharine's first graduating class; Dick, the school's first football coach, and Bill, who scored the first touchdown for St. Catharine's . . . "because my brother was the coach." Dick is dead, as are the parents. Bill lives at the Sherwood Rd. address.

The George Rappolds settled at 2578 Sherwood Rd., in 1929, the year Joe Rappold was born. The Rappolds also had a daughter, Mary Kary, who lives in Santa Barbara, Calif. with her three children. Mrs. Rappold and Joe's family (there are six children) live at 2578 Sherwood . . . one of the parish's four-generation families. The Rappold children are Gary, Mary Beth, Cathy, Peggy, Tony and Rick. Only Rick is single and at home. The others, who have given Joe and his wife six grandchildren, all live in Columbus but none in St. Catharine Parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Stanton moved to 62 N. Cassingham in 1927 and Mrs. Stanton continues to make her home there. Mr. Stanton died in 1973. The Stantons had two daughters, Mrs. Robert Malone, mother of seven and a member of Christ the King parish, and Mrs. Thomas Finneran of Painted Post, N.Y. Mrs. Finneran has six children.

A charming, gracious pioneer of the area and St. Catharine is Miss Mary Miller. In 1917 her family moved to Brentwood Rd. Five years after the parish started, Miss Miller built at 119 S. Chesterfield, where she and her easily recognizable 1932 Ford B continue to "reside". Her grandfather, Thomas Miller, owned a great deal of the property now making up the city of Bexley. Miss Miller taught for 42 years, 39 at Columbus School for Girls, where she is a living legend. As St. Catharine observes its golden jubilee, Miss Miller marks her 85th birthday.

A fourth generation still associated with St. Catharine can be traced back to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Michael Kuhns, who

decided to call 2551 E. Broad St. home back in 1922. From this union came one son, Chester W., who today lives at 2919 Neil Ave. Chester W. (Chet) and Mildred Kuhns, long time members of the parish, had five sons. Two, David and Robert, are at St. Catharine and each has two children. John, who lives at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., has four children. Thomas Michael has five and is in St. Phillip's parish. The Kuhn's third child, Jimmy, died when he was three months old. Mrs. Chet Kuhns died in 1969. Chet and Mildred had children attending St. Catharine school for 21 consecutive years. David's children are Erica Lynn and Stephen Charles. Robert has two daughters, Jennifer Christine and Katherine Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thoman, Sr., and Mrs. Thoman's father, William H. Burns, resided at 1335 Remington Rd., several years before ground was broken for St. Catherine's church. The Thomans had two children, Mrs. Joan Risberg of St. Louis, Mo., who has four children, and Harry, Jr., an Upper Arlington resident with seven children. Young Harry has two cousins in St. Catharine's, Mrs. George Gugle, Jr., and Joe McCann. Joan started her schooling at Holy Rosary and was in the second grade at St. Catharine in the fall of 1931. Harry was on the school's first championship football team in 1941 and recalls it was coached by Bob White, a St. Charles student who later became a priest.

Mrs. John Vincent McKinnon and her four children took up residence at 2255 Dale Ave., in 1924. They were John, Bill, Kathleen and Alice. Only Kathleen is living. She makes her home in Upper Arlington. Mr. McKinnon died in 1905. Bill was sports editor of the Columbus Dispatch. John's daughter, Mrs. Gunlap (Ann) Seren and her three children, are the McKinnon's link with St. Catharine's today. The children, who attend CCD classes at St. Catharine, are Carey, Elin and John.

Another four-generation family can be traced to the union of Tom and Mayme Buchanan. Their three daughters, all married at St. Catharine, are Mrs. Daniel A. (Genell) O'Neil, Mrs. Paul (Dorothy) Weilbacker and Mrs. William (Jean) Hinkle. Dorothy is in St. Agatha parish and Jean lives in California. Genell and Dan are in St. Catharine's and so are four of the six O'Neil children, representing the third generation. Two of these, Mrs. William (Maureen) Harvey, and Mrs. John (Molly) Winkel, account for the fourth generation, Maureen with three children and Molly has one. Jerry and Bridget are also in the parish and Bridget, the sixth O'Neil to attend St. Catharine school, will be in the 1982 graduating class. Dan O'Neil, with three children, lives in California. Dianne, next to the youngest, was a June 1981 graduate from Dayton University. Genell's father helped get the Bexo Club off to a strong start. Maureen's children are Carolyn, Teresa and Susan. Molly is the mother of Andrew Winkel.

Charles and Elizabeth Lang, who lived on Brentwood, have fourth generation representatives in St. Catharine Parish. They had three sons, Bernard, Alphonse (Al H.) and Joseph. Bernard had four children and Al was the father of one daughter, Mrs. Dean (Jo Ann) Coffman. Al, who is familiar with nearly every brick and stone associated with St. Catharine's physical plant, moved to 282 N. Ardmore in 1928 and lives there as the parish marks its Golden Anniver-

sary. Mrs. Lang died in 1969. Five children of Dean and Jo Ann Coffman, along with their parents and grandfather, are still members of St. Catharine's... Ann Patrice, Joan Terese, Thomas Lang, Jane Denise and Lori Elise. Tim is at St. Andrews. Joan Terese was a May, 1981, graduate of Ohio Dominican College, where her mother spent 16 years when it was known as St. Mary of the Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Girard Berry, Sr., were in the area three years when St. Catharine started. The Berrys had three children and all attended St. Catharine School. They are Girard, Jr., Mrs. Edward (Catherine) Nelson and Paul. Girard, Jr., his wife and his mother are the only members of the family in St. Catharine's parish. Paul attends St. Pat's and Catherine, mother of three, lives in Norwich, N.Y. Girard, Jr., is the father of two, Girard III, who is in St. Francis parish, and Mrs. Andrew (Catherine) Beto of Charlottesville, Va. Mr. Berry died in 1979. Paul Berry was the second child to be baptized at St. Catharine, on Oct. 20, 1931. The first was Sarah Harris, born the day the church was dedicated and baptized Oct. 11.

The Mrs. John (Helen) Varley listed earlier as a charter member, was also the daughter of charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Fitzwater. She also had an uncle living in the parish when it started, Harold Roberts. The Fitzwaters had two children, Helen and her brother, Robert H. Robert is in St. Agatha Parish and has two children. Harold Roberts was a member of St. Catharine's until his death in 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sugar lived in the area for four years before St. Catharine's started. There were two daughters, Mrs. James (Louise) Albers and Mrs. Mervin (Augustine) Roland. Mr. Sugar died at the age of 67 in 1957 but Mrs. Sugar continues to reside at 277 S. Ardmore, where they moved in 1927. Mrs. Roland has four married daughters in Columbus: Mrs. Timothy (Margaret) Sullivan, Mrs. William J. (Teresa) Scholl, Mrs. Gary L. (Anne) Martin and Mrs. Donald (Mary Cecelia) Crites, and a son at home who attends St. Catharine, James Mervin. The Rolands have seven grandchildren. Jim and Louise Albers lived in the parish until two years ago when they moved to Blacklick. They, too, have five children.

A second Sugar family, James' brother Joe, also helped sew the seeds of success for St. Catharine's parish. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sugar built at 2556 Sherwood Ave., and moved in a few months before their first child, Barbara, was born Aug. 8, 1929. Barbara is the wife of Dr. James Connor, members of St. Catharine and parents of James Jr., Andrew, Christopher and Barbara. The Joe Sugars also have three sons, Joe, Jim and Jack, and another daughter, Dorothy, who is Mrs. Fritz Ziegler (another pioneer family). The Zieglers live in St. Catharine's parish and have three boys, Fritz, Michael and Stephen. Joe Sugar and his wife belong to St. Agatha parish, as do sons Joe and Jim. At age 81, in 1980, Mrs. Sugar was baptized a Catholic at St. Patrick's. Jack Sugar, who has four children, is in Holy Spirit parish. Joe Jr. and brother Jack have three children each, giving the elder Sugars 17 grandchildren.

The John M. Ulrichs, who moved to 302 S. Cassady in the early '20s, were charter members of the parish who lived to see St. Catharine in its present physical state. Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich, who later moved to 2648 Sherwood, had one child, Dorothy, who is still a member of St. Catharine. Mrs.

Ulrich died in 1971 and Mr. Ulrich in 1974.

Mrs. Edward C. Babbitt (Mr. Babbitt was not a Catholic) moved into the area in 1927. They had one daughter, Mrs. Barb Knauer Hysell, who was in the second grade when St. Catharine opened. Mrs. Hysell has been a teacher for many years. Her son, Jack Knauer, taught at St. Catharine for seven years and is presently in the Bexley school system.

Mrs. Tom Bringardner is the daughter of a St. Catharine "original." Her mother was Mrs. Dalton H. Mulloney, who died Dec. 20, 1980. Mr. Mulloney, who made his home at 81 S. Cassingham when the parish first started, died in 1970. The Mulloneys also had a son, Dalton H. Jr., who goes by his middle name, Hayes. Hayes, the father of seven, lives in Media, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb. Mr. and Mrs. Bringardner have four sons, Tom Jr., of Naples, Fla.; Dick, Jeff and Dan. Dick and Jeff are in Columbus but no longer in St. Catharine's. Dan and his parents are still members of the parish. The Bringardners have a grandchild in Florida.

Four years before the parish started, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Downey moved to 233 S. Dawson. They had five children, Mrs. Henry (Jane) O'Neill, Sr., Mrs. Richard (Rita) Isaly, Jr., John R. Jr., Charles M. and Mary Catherine. The latter three are dead. Mrs. O'Neill is in Christ the King Parish and Mrs. Isaly is in St. Mathias. Mrs. Isaly's daughter, Mrs. John F. (Ann) Wolfe, is a member of St. Catharine's Parish. The Wolfes have three daughters, Sara, Rita Jean and Katherine . . . the fourth generation of the Downeys. Two of the Wolfe girls are in the CCD program at St. Catharine. Ann Wolfe has a brother, Richard, in Arlington.

They had no way of knowing it when they moved into 2421 Plymouth in 1925, but Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Burkey were but a short walk from the property that was to become the hub of St. Catharine's parish. They had two children, Dr. John N. Burkey of Longview, Wash., and Mrs. John H. Margaret) Martin. Mrs. Martin remains in the parish. She has two daughters, Mrs. James (Barbara) Mathias of Cleveland, Ellen Martin of St. Phillips, and a son, John B., a student at Ohio State. Dr. Burkey and his wife have six children. The Martin children all attended St. Catharine School, where their mother was a sixth grader the year the school opened.

A famous football player was here when St. Catharine's started 50 years ago. He was Fred Nesser, fourth (in age) of the six great football-playing Nesser brothers. All outstanding players before and at the start of the National Football League with the Columbus Panhandles, the Nessers were: John, who played regularly until he was 46-years-old; Ted, Phil, Fred, Frank and Al. Oldest of the brothers, Pete, couldn't find the time to play, and the youngest, Raymond, quit after playing one season. Fred, who was also a heavy-weight boxer, moved into a home at 287 N. Ardmore Rd., in 1924, where Vera, Louise, Robert and Eugene were all raised. Louise, who married Richard Bornhorst and had one son, died in 1941. Mrs. Nesser died in 1954, but Fred lived until 1967 and was taken care of by Vera, who remains in the parish and still resides at the N. Ardmore address. Robert lives in Heath and Eugene in Whitehall. Each had four children. Eugene's granddaughter, Annalese Nesser Lynch, is in the Montessori school at St. Catharine's.

Melvin A. and Margaret Sells, another couple who came with the charter, had no children. But they are well represented in the parish by Helen Van Heyde, a niece, and her

family. Melvin and Margaret lived at 284 N. Ardmore Rd. when the parish started. Mr. Sells died in 1951. Mrs. Sells is a member of Christ the King parish. Mrs. Sells volunteered to take care of the altar and vestments as Father Coburn started the new parish in 1931. "Ironing the altar linens was difficult. Mrs. Leo Rodenfels had a mangle (a machine for smoothing or pressing cloth) and she helped. I have so many pleasant memories taking care of the altar. At that time, few women were given such an honor," says Mrs. Sells. "We had parties (Mrs. Sells, Mrs. John Seidensticker, Mrs. Clem Smeltzer and others) to raise money to buy vestments and other needs. I remember buying vases at the five and ten cent store," said the pioneer of today's Altar Care Committee.

Frank and Mary Meyers, who moved to S. Weyant Ave., in the late '20s, are still represented in the parish by their nephew Tom and his family, who live on Gould Rd. Tom and Nora Meyers have three children, Monica, Margaret and George, who will be in the eighth grade at St. Catharine as the parish starts its 51st year. The girls also attended St. Catharine. Frank Meyers was killed in an auto accident in 1947 and Mary died in 1979. They had one son, Frank Jr., who lives in Missouri. Tom was in Corpus Christi parish when his aunt and uncle were in St. Catharine's. Tom is a special minister at St. Catharine.

BROTHERS—Brothers John and Joe Tracy, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tracy, are shown as they appeared in 1945. The Tracys were members of the parish when it was formed in 1931.



The aunt and uncle of Mrs. Tom Keys had more than a hand in the start of St. Catharine. They were Lucy and Eugene McKinney. Lucy was the sister of Mrs. Keys' father, Charles Hammond. Mr. McKinney worked for the Lang Co. as a carpenter and helped build the chapel/school at St. Catharine. The McKinneys had no children. The Keys' second son, Ed, and his family of five (Maria, Jenny, Jeff, Emie and Jason) are in the parish. Another son, Skip, lives in Pataskala and has three children.

The Frank Jaegers built at the corner of Bryden and Parkview in the mid '20s. There were three sons, Jack, Frank Jr. and Bill, daughters Virginia (Mrs. Frank Groom), Barbara (Mrs. Max Ullman) and Regina (Mrs. Pat McKinney). Bill, the father of William of Pataskala and Susan of Gahanna, is the only Jaeger who remained at St. Catharine. Mrs. Groom, mother of four, is in Christ the King; Jack, who makes his home in Pittsburgh, has three children; Frank Jr., from Holy Spirit, has two, while Barbara and Regina, who live in the Marietta area, have three each. Mrs. Jaeger, Sr., died in 1934. Barbara and Regina were born to a second wife, Betty, who lives in Reynoldsburg. Bill's daughter, Susan, is Mrs. George Snyder. William, Jr., and Susan each have two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Roderick, Sr., moved to 460 S. Drexel more than 20 years before St. Catharine started. Mr. Roderick was not a Catholic but his wife and children attended Holy Rosary. The children were Elizabeth (Mrs. John Hauss), who remains a member of St. Catharine, Thomas W. of California, Samuel W., Jr., of Gahanna and Richard C. of Florida. Elizabeth had two children, John Jr., of Christ the King and Mary Jane of Florida. Thomas also had two, while Sam and Dick had three each. Mr. Roderick, Sr., died 13 days before his 90th birthday in 1972 and Mrs. Roderick was also 89 when she died in 1975. Sam Jr., remembers "hunting rabbit where St. Catharine is now located."

When Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Wright moved to Bexley, on Cassingham, 56 years ago, they attended Holy Rosary and St. Pat's. Two of their nine great grandchildren, Heidi and Shawn Spence, now attend St. Catharine's School . . . another four-generation St. Catharine family. Mr. Wright, who died in the summer of 1980, and Mrs. Wright had three children, Paul Wright, Jr., who lives in Dayton; Mrs. Gene (Virginia) Spence of Harbor Hills, and Bob of Cincinnati. Gene and Virginia Spence had three children, Gene Jr., of St. Catharine, the father of Heidi and Shawn; Sandra of Worthington, mother of two, and Stephen, who is single and lives in the University area. Paul Jr. has two children and Bob has one. The Wrights lived for 25 years on Cassingham and for more than 30 years on Brookside Drive.

George Reuben Krumm, youngest of eight children of the Henry Krumms, lived at 4630 E. Main St., when St. Catharine's parish started. Fifty years later we have two young children of Nora Catherine McCann and Tunney Lee King in the parish of fourth generation status. Catherine Ann King and Colin Tunney King are the grandchildren of Mrs. Charles (Frances Krumm) McCann and the great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. George Reuben Krumm. George Krumm (1879-1948) and Mrs. Krumm, who died at age 85 Dec. 26, 1969, had another daughter and three sons along with daughter Frances. They were Thomas John of Hillsboro,

One Punch Knockout

The Nesser brothers were known for their hard, clean play with the Columbus Panhandles. But there are exceptions to all rules. An opponent punched Phil Nesser, stunning the mild-mannered man. Brother Fred, resting on the sidelines, saw it and replaced Phil. He, too, was punched. On the next play, the puncher was carried from the field on a stretcher. Awakening three days later, he was told that heavyweight boxer Fred Nesser found it necessary to deliver the KO punch.

Ohio, and Venice, Fla.; Bernard Joseph of St. Andrew's Parish, Edward Henry of Florida and Mary Josephine Krumm of Holy Spirit. The Krumms have multiplied, and multiplied. There are 21 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren of the George Krumms. Frances McCann has six children and 11 grandchildren, Thomas seven children and 22 grandchildren, Bernard six children and two grandchildren and Edward (Ned) two children and one grandchild. One of Tom's sons is Father John Edward Krumm of Our Lady of Mercy in Dayton, where he also helps at four prisons. He's not the first priest in the family. Mrs. George Krumm's uncle, Father Austin Cush, served at Dresden St. Ann and New Lexington St. Rose.

Miss Mary Belz lived on a farm with her sister and father years before St. Catharine started. By 1931 the land had reached the stage where it bore an address, 98 S. James Road. Mr. Belz died about the time the parish was drawing its first breath but Mary lived until 1965. Her sister, Mrs. Rose Foltz, is also dead. Rose had a son, Rudy, an airline pilot who lives in Florida. There is one Belz relative in the parish, Mrs. Joe (Millie) Hendricks, a great niece of Mary Belz.

There was one more name to confuse Father Coburn . . . Corbett. In addition to the three Corbett sisters mentioned at the outset of this history of St. Catharine originals, the parish had a John Thomas Corbett family that moved here in 1929. The Corbetts had a son, Sylvester, and a daughter, Elinor (Mrs. Donald F. Rader). The Raders had a son, James B. and a daughter Barbara (Mrs. John Anderson). Mr. and Mrs. James Rader have two sons, Donald C. and Arthur A., while Barbara is the mother of a daughter, Mary . . . making this another four-generation family. Elinor Rader, her children and grandchildren are all in the parish. Mr. Corbett died in 1940, Mrs. Corbett in 1960 and Donald F. Rader in 1971. Sylvester, who made his home in Florida, is also deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Wolls attended Holy Rosary when they moved to 3100 Broadmoor in 1931, where Mrs. Wolls still resides. They had no family. Mr. Wolls died in 1964. Father Paul R. Hammer, who died in 1958, was a nephew.

The name Tom Vogel has been familiar at St. Catharine since the parish started. Dr. Tom Vogel is special minister of Holy Communion and his wife, Darina, is one of the lecturers at St. Catharine. Their daughter, Catherine, was a 1981 St. Catharine graduate and brother Tommy graduated the year before. Two other children, Mark and Nicola, are at St. Joe's. Dr. Vogel's parents were Dr. and Mrs. Tom Vogel, who lived at 247 S. Ardmore, where the Vogels now reside. The elder Dr. Vogel died April 1, 1939 and because St. Catharine's Church was so small at the time, the funeral Mass was at Holy Rosary. Mrs. Vogel died in 1970. Dr. Tom

Vogel and Darina Kelleher were married at St. Catharine by the bishop of Brentwood, London, England, Bishop Bernard Patrick Wall. Darina was born in Dublin and raised in England. Young Dr. Vogel's great grandfather, Andrew Vogel, owned 40 acres of land in this area as early as 1840. His grandparents, Philip and Amelia Vogel, were charter members of Holy Rosary.

Bob Essig was one of two boys (the other was John Rodenfels, son of the Leo Rodenfels) in the first graduating class, in 1933, at St. Catharine. Joseph and Mary Essig lived at 138 S. Cassady when St. Catharine started, and that's where Bob now lives. Bob had one brother, Lawrence, who was killed in an air crash in 1955. The Bob Essigs have seven children. They are Eric, in Boston; Gregory in Kenner, La.; Mary Jo, a graduate from Ohio Dominican College in December, 1980; Mark, at Bowling Green State University; Lee Elizabeth, a student at the University of Cincinnati; Marjory, a 1981 June graduate from Bexley High School, and the oldest, Robert J., who is at home. Bob Essig, like some of his classmates in 1932-33 at St. Catharine, attended Holy Rosary his first seven years in grade school. His father died in 1962 and Mrs. Essig in 1978.

J. Lewis and Clara Richter built at 84 N. Cassingham two years before St. Catharine Parish started. They are represented today by two of their three daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Mike Burns) and Mrs. Mary Ray. A third daughter, Louise, who is married to Dr. Robert Vogel, is the mother of three and makes her home in Dayton. Mary Alice and Mike Burns have four children. Michael Jr. and David are in St. Mary's Parish, while John, an attorney, is at St. Catharine and so is Lory, who was a June, 1981, graduate of Walnut Ridge High School. Mary Ray's children are Christine, Cathy, Carol and Mike. Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Ray are the nieces of another original member of the parish, Florence Richter.

J. Edward and Louise Finneran were living at 170 S. Cassady when St. Catharine started. They had three sons, J. Edward Jr., who lives at Port Clinton, Ohio, George Doersam of Worthington and Robert, who was killed in the War, in 1945. George has five children. A niece of the Finnerans, Mrs. Harold (Jean Doersam) Ridenour, and her family continue the Finneran ties at St. Catharine.

Another four-generation St. Catharine family stems from the union of Dr. Frank and Katharine Gruber, who attended Holy Rosary when they moved to 424 S. Columbia in 1925. There were four children, Ned, Lyman, Jane and William. Ned, who spends the winters in Florida, and his sister Jane are in St. Catharine's. Lyman is in Christ the King parish and William in St. Brendan. William was the first altar boy at St. Catharine. Ned and wife Jane Gruber have five children. William is the father of two. Ned and Jane's children are Dr. Frank W. of Norfolk, Va., John E. of Silver Springs, Md., and Ellen, Kathleen and Dr. Matthew Gruber, DDS, all of St. Catharine. Kathleen spends the winters in Florida with her parents. Dr. Matt and Susan (Hoffman) Gruber account for the fourth generation in infant son Benjamin.

From A (as in Abram) to Z (as in Ziegler): That's the story of original families at St. Catharine. Florian N. Ziegler moved to Stanwood Rd. two years after he was married, in 1929. "We attended Holy Rosary until St. Catharine was built," says the man who was the church's choir director

for its first 25 years. Mr. Ziegler, now 84, was a classmate of Father Coburn at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, Pa. The chairman of the board of Buckeye Letter Service, is the father of two sons, John and Fritz, who help him run Buckeye. Fritz has three children, Fritz Michael and Stephen, all at St. Catharine School. John has four, Mellisa, Teddy and Kathy at Bexley, and John at Academy.

Other original members of the parish have been located. But, unlike the ones already detailed, they no longer have ties with St. Catharine's.

Fred and Anna Zuber were here when it all started. Son Jack was in the first class to attend all eight grades at St. Catharine. His brother Tom went through the first seven grades here. Jack, who is in St. Andrew's Parish, has five children. Tom never married. A third brother, Jerry, was killed in a tractor accident when he was 13.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Berwanger lived in the country, nearly two miles from church, on E. Main St., when St. Catharine's started. They have many friends in the parish, but no relatives. The Berwangers had two daughters, Rita (Mrs. Howard E. Sandusky) of Thornville, Ohio, and Rose Mary (Mrs. Gerald Susil) of Christ the King, and sons George E. of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., and Robert of St. Andrew's parish. Mrs. Berwanger, who lives at Buckeye Lake, has 22 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Mr. Berwanger died in 1973. Rita has eight children, Rosemary seven, George three and Robert four. George was in the first class at St. Catharine's to go through all eight grades, graduating in 1939. Mr. Berwanger had two nephews who are priests, Father George Berwanger of Cincinnati and Father John Krumm of Dayton.

Ray Eichenlaub, a fullback and teammate of famed Notre Dame Coach Knute Rockne, was in the parish when St. Catharine started, moving to Bexley in 1928. There were five sons. Ray Jr., was in the sixth grade in the fall of 1931 at St. Catharine. The other boys were Dick, Rupert, Albert and Tom. Albert and Tom are dead. Ray Jr., who recalls "There was a football team that first year; we had uniforms and played Cathedral at Franklin Park and won, claiming the city championship," is a member of Our Lady of Peace Parish. Dick is at St. Phillip's and Rupert at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Mr. Eichenlaub was a salesman for many years, a job that took him away from home. On a small sum of money, by today's standards, Mrs. Eichenlaub had him start the Eichenlaub Insurance Co., in 1919, that his sons operate today. Ray Jr. had two children, Dick three and Rupert and Albert four each.

Mabel McGee raised two brothers, William and Francis, and a nephew, Manley McGee, at 152 N. Remington, where these four charter members of St. Catharine resided. On N. Cassady were Scott M. Swisher and Reba McGee Swisher. Francis McGee, the aforementioned Manley's uncle, and Athelyn McManaway, were the first to be married in the parish. And the wedding, performed by Father Coburn, had to be in the rectory because Miss McManaway was not a Catholic. Francis, who died when he was in his early '30s, was a professional baseball player, an outfielder-first baseman with the old Washington Senators.

Urban and Julia Kaufman lived at 316 S. Cassady when St. Catharine Parish started. There were three children, Helen (Mrs. Granville Sharp), Jack and Bill. Helen, the

mother of one daughter, lives in Pataskala, Jack is in Austin, Texas, and Bill lives in a suburb of St. Louis. Jack is the father of one and the grandfather of two. Bill had four children and has two grandchildren. Urban Kaufman died in 1975 and Mrs. Kaufman two years later.

Robert A., John William and Joe (T.J.) Roberts are sons of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Roberts. They were in the first, second and third grades, respectively, when St. Catharine school opened in September, 1931. A fourth member of the family is Lillian C. Roberts, who became Sister Agnes Anne Roberts, C.S.C., in 1946. Mr. Roberts died in 1966, Mrs. Roberts a year later and John William in 1979. Joe lives in Upper Arlington, Robert in Cincinnati and Sister Agnes Anne is at Mt. Carmel Medical Center.

William E. and Euphemia Valls Mumm were living at the corner of Fair and Harding when the tiny chapel/school known as St. Catharine opened its doors for the first time in 1931. Bill died in 1962 and Mrs. Mumm three years later. He was the son of Col. William M. Mumm, a pioneer of 47 years in Holy Rosary Parish. William and Euphemia had one son, Roger, a dentist, along with Bruce, Sandra and Marilyn, all of Florida. Bill has two brothers, Harry and Herb in St. Agatha Parish, and two sisters, Marie Mumm of Christ the King and Sister Annette, a Franciscan stationed at St. Vincent's.

Martha Borchers, who is now Mrs. William Finkel of Our Lady of Peace Parish, was in the first St. Catharine graduating class in 1933. When the parish started, Arthur and Jane Borchers resided at 675 Eastmoor Blvd. Mr. Borchers died

in 1968. Sons George, who had two children, and Joe also are deceased. Martha has two children. Mrs. Borchers lives in the Minerva Park Rest Home.

The 72nd original member of the parish to be located was Helen Lintner, who died Feb. 20, 1981. She and her husband Otto, who moved into the area in 1925, had no children. Otto died in 1972. Lone survivor is Bud Lintner, a nephew who lives in Akron.

A second Finneran family was in the parish when it started. John and Clementine Seidensticker Finneran lived at 2154 E. Main (at Parkview). There were six children and two, Tom and Don, were in St. Catharine School when it opened in 1931. Tom, who makes his home in Painted Post, N.Y., was in the sixth grade; Don was in the fourth grade. A cousin, Mary Alyce Sears Phillips, was one of 15 classmates of Tom. Mrs. Phillips is the tie between the John Finneran family and St. Catharine. A daughter, Marie Finneran, is in Christ the King Parish, as is one of Don's daughters, Mrs. Jim (Theresa) Duffey. Also in the Finneran family were Jack of Kinkwood, Tex., Mrs. Dominick (Patricia) Parente of Staten Island, and Raymond, who died in January, 1980. Don Finneran is the father of 13 children, Tom had six, Patricia four and Jack two. Kathleen, Richard, Thomas and William Phillips all attended St. Catharine School. Tom Finneran's sister-in-law, Mary Jane Stanton Malone, is in Christ the King Parish. Mrs. Malone's parents (Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Stanton), were among the first families of St. Catharine, as noted earlier.

St. Catharine's Roots

St. Catharine's parish was formed from two parishes, St. Thomas on the north and Holy Rosary on the west. Holy Rosary parishioners were informed of the new parish in the May, 1931, Good Counsel church bulletin, which stated:

"Recently the Rt. Rev. Bishop announced the formation of the new St. Catharine's Parish. The announcement has been expected for some time. While the limits of the new parish have not been fixed definitely, the beginning is to be made with those families living north of Main Street and as far east as the Franklin County boundary line.

"It is apparent that this action means the elimination of a large number of parishioners from our list. Quite naturally we regret the loss. However, a cursory reading of Good Counsel shows that through the life of Holy Rosary Parish two virtues have been stressed, obedience

to authority and loyalty.

"Our parting admonition to those who have listened so patiently to our instructions, is the stressing of these two characteristics, obedience and loyalty. With them in the foreground the new organization will thrive and its members will prosper. Without them, no matter what outward appearances show, there will be grave weaknesses within.

"The Rt. Rev. Bishop will assume personal jurisdiction in the administration of the affairs of St. Catharine's. We have had the confidence to assure him that his efforts will meet with material and spiritual cooperation. Our prayers and best wishes accompany the new undertaking."

Pastor of Holy Rosary at the time was the Right Rev. John Murphy, who also served as superintendent of diocesan schools.



THE VERY FIRST—The 66 children shown here (sure you want to identify them NOW) represented the entire student body of St. Catharine in 1931-32, the school's first year. The picture was taken in front of the chapel that served as our first church, on June 8, 1932. There were six grades the first year. Two grades were added in the fall.

School

From September, 1931 until June 21, 1974, students at St. Catharine School were greatly influenced and their Christian lives shaped by Holy Cross sisters.

Yet, it remained for a chance conversation at Mt. Carmel Hospital as the stroke of good fortune that brought the Holy Cross nuns to St. Catharine.

The Right Rev. John J. Murphy, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, lay ill at Mt. Carmel. Fr. Robert Coburn, secretary to Bishop James J. Hartley and Msgr. Murphy, casually discussed the formation of the new parish at St. Catharine's with Sister M. Austina, superior at Mt. Carmel.

Fr. Coburn had recently been appointed pastor of the new parish. His duties, among others, was to open a new school. One of the Sisters asked Fr. Coburn: "Why don't you have Sisters of the Holy Cross for the faculty of your school?" Knowing the Community only through its nursing activities at Mt. Carmel, Fr. Coburn's reply was: "They are only nurses."

With the information concerning the educational activities of the Community presented to him, Fr. Coburn was convinced that he should secure the services of Holy Cross Sisters for St. Catharine's School.

For many years, Bishop Hartley had been friend and admirer of the Holy Cross Sisters at Mt. Carmel. So, when his approval was requested for the coming of the Holy Cross Sisters to St. Catharine's it was enthusiastically given.

Classes had been organized on Sept. 8, five days before the new church-school was solemnly dedicated by the most Reverend James J. Hartley. The staff consisted of Sister M. Madeline (Rouf) as principal, assisted by Sister M. Lucy

(Abel), Sister M. Laurentia (Boyle) and Sister M. Agnes Angela (Harty).

From 1931 until the end of the 1948-49 school year, classes were held in the original chapel-school. And, until the new school opened in the fall of 1950, the basement of the convent served many purposes. It was used as a general meeting room for the parish. It was the school's cafeteria. First Communion breakfasts were served in the convent basement. In 1950, it was used as a classroom for the sixth and seventh grades the week preceding the dedication of the new school.

Ground was broken April 24, 1949 by Bishop Michael J. Ready for the new school building. It was to include eight classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, library, cafeteria and a gymnasium/auditorium. The cornerstone was laid Sept. 27, 1949 and it was dedicated Sept. 17, 1950.

The Altman-Cody Co. built the school. Ramsey and Croce served as architects. Cost of the school was \$400,000. Twelve years earlier, the convent was built for a mere \$28,499.16, including furnishings throughout.

As enrollment at St. Catharine increased, more Holy Cross sisters were added to the teaching staff. A fifth nun was

SAME CHILDREN, SAME DAY—These are the same children shown on Page 32 . . . as they enjoyed a picnic in the field behind the church/school. This picture also was taken June 8, 1932. What happened to all the houses to the East? They came later, as did a much smoother athletic field.



added in 1938-39, a sixth six years later, a seventh in 1947-48, an eighth two years later and, with 307 students in 1950-51, there were nine sisters. That figure remained static for eight years but, as enrollment approached record levels in the early '60s, lay teachers were hired.

By 1955-56 there were two lay teachers. From 1961 to 1965, five lay teachers worked with eight sisters. The 1970-71 school year saw a record 13 lay teachers in addition to five sisters.

As enrollment started to decline the next three years, however, there were but six sisters and seven lay teachers in 1971-72, five sisters and six lay teachers the following year and four sisters and six lay teachers as enrollment dropped to 196 for the 1973-74 school year, the lowest since 194 attended in 1944-45.

St. Catharine Parish suffered a severe blow on Feb. 3, 1974 when it was learned that sisters of the Holy Cross would terminate their services to the school at the close of the school year. Sister Anna Neuland, C.S.C., head of the Eastern Elementary Region II of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, issued the following announcement at that time:

"The Sisters of the Holy Cross announce the withdrawal of the services of their sisters from St. Catharine Parish effective September, 1974.

"This religious congregation, as many others, is experiencing a dearth of personnel due to the aging of present membership, the small number of recruits entering for the teaching profession, and other contributing factors. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to respond to the needs of all the parishes in which they serve. This has brought them to the necessary decision of withdrawing their service from St. Catharine's.

"The Sisters of the Holy Cross came to St. Catharine's Parish in August, 1931, at the invitation of the pastor, Very Reverend Robert F. Coburn. From 1931 to 1938 the sisters on the teaching staff at St. Catharine's lived at Mount Carmel Medical Center which is staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross as is Mount Carmel East.

"Appreciation of the gestures of friendship, generosity and gratitude shown to the sisters by the diocesan officials, the priests and people of St. Catharine's during their 42 years of service in the parish was expressed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross."

It was not a pleasant nor hasty decision. In October of 1973, the sisters at St. Catharine were asked to begin prayerful preparation for "discerning the pros and cons of remaining at St. Catharine's." The discerning process was carried out in November. The result of the process was shared at a Regional meeting of 11 houses of Holy Cross Sisters in the Region in December.

On Feb. 3, 1974, sisters at St. Catharine were informed of the final decision reached by the Region to withdraw the

VERY FIRST—The seven young men and women pictured here have a singular honor... the first graduates of St. Catharine School. They attended St. Catharine only one year, when the seventh and eighth grades were added for the 1932-33 school year. Seated, from left, are Rita Downey and Martha Coady. Standing, John Rodenfels, Helen Kaufman, Martha Borchers, Jane Emig and Bob Essig.



THE YEAR WAS 1934—On a bright day in June, 1934, this picture was snapped, showing the 108 children in the eight grades at St. Catharine School. There were no ivy covered walls on the three-year-old church/school. How many can you identify in this picture?

Except for two boys in the back row and a girl left of center in the fourth row, did you ever see so many serious-looking youngsters? You're right, in the early '30s there wasn't that much to smile about.



OUR JEEP—A touch of the war hit St. Catharine in this 1943 photo as first and second grade pupils gather around jeep purchased by the school. Who's at the controls of "Breezy"? Your turn to guess.



services of the Sisters from St. Catharine's. The decision was subsequently conveyed to the bishop, the pastor and finally to the parish and general public.

The Holy Cross Sisters formally left St. Catharine's on June 21, 1974.

St. Catharine's principals, in addition to the three mentioned at the outset of this chapter, were Sister M. Paul Francis (1943-45), Sister M. Laurentia (1945-51), Sister M. Elizabeth Clare (1951-55), Sister M. Marie Vivienne (1955-61), Sister M. Aquin (1961-65), Sister M. Elizabeth (1965-68) and Sister M. Claudia (1968-72).

Sisters Madeline, Margaret Frances and Aquin are deceased.

St. Catharine had its first lay principal starting with the 1972-73 school year when Mrs. Joseph (Ellen) Brosmer was named to the position. She continued in that position through 1975 and, in all, was associated with the school for 16 years.

Since 1975, the principal has been Mrs. William (Mary Ann) Brennan.

In 1972, the staff, realizing the completely individualized method of education was not meeting the needs of the majority of students, began to eliminate it from the program. There was a return to a combination of conventional teaching with individualized lessons incorporated for special students who needed the individual attention.

At the present time, St. Catharine School is departmentalized in teaching. The students from grades 1-8 change classes daily. This method of teaching gives the teachers an opportunity to specialize in their fields.

All the religious teachers in the school have advanced certification in religion and update their certification each year by taking additional courses in religion by attending Religion In-Service Workshops.

Second generations of students are now attending St. Catharine School.

One teacher, Mary Ann Brown, graduated from St. Catharine in 1957 and has been teaching at St. Catharine since 1973. A second graduate on the staff is Kathy Holdrieth.

Ruth Redinbaugh has been school secretary, and the only secretary, since 1954.

LAST OF THE OLD—Last graduating class in the old St. Catharine School was the Class of 1950 posing, quite professionally in cap and gown with Msgr. Coburn. Front row, from left, Chuck Lingo, Jim Grace, Naomi Meara, Peggy Jolliffe, Mary O'Dea, Patty Cassidy, Msgr. Robert Coburn, Andre Gaughran, Jean Doersam, Julianne Gogle, Ann Leddy, Tom Martin and Ronald Rohletter. Back row, Pat McCaffrey, Dick Casey, Tom Jeffries, Ned Stedem, Richard Roesch, Tom Morris, Mike Allen, Dan Peters, Ronald Westcamp, Donald Sharp, Dick Warnick, Joe Ryan and Bob Swenker.



Lillian Allen has been in charge of the cafeteria since 1955 and has been known by every child who has attended St. Catharine in the 36 years that followed. If you hear a "Yeah" in the halls of St. Catharine, it isn't a cheer for one of the school's athletic teams. To all, Lillian Allen has been known as "Yeah."

Religion, quite naturally, has always been given a high priority at St. Catharine School.

The first class to make its First Communion in the new parish was composed of 12 second grade pupils. They received the sacrament on May 8, 1932 to bring to a glorious climax the first school year.

The sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time to St. Catharine students on May 14, 1934 by the Right Reverend James J. Hartley. That first class numbered 64.

St. Catharine's first eighth grade graduation took place on June 11, 1933. There were seven graduates in the class. These students, of course, had been at St. Catharine only one year.

SCHOOL CORNERSTONE—Cornerstone ceremonies for the \$400,000 St. Catharine School took place in 1949 with Bishop Michael J. Ready officiating. Others in the photo are Father Leo R. Brehm, Msgr. Harry Connelly and Msgr. Edward Spiers. All are deceased except Msgr. Spiers. Bishop Ready dedicated the school Sept. 17, 1950.



There has been consistent involvement of the school children in choir groups, both boys and girls. The Girls' Choir made a recording of songs in 1947.

From 1935 until quite recently, students from St. Catharine's participated in the scholarship competition sponsored by the Saturday Morning School of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts. Many St. Catharine pupils were recipients of these scholarships.

Piano recitals and Christmas programs have been a part of St. Catharine School from the beginning. Until the new school opened in 1950, the Nursing Home at Mount Carmel Hospital was used for such functions.

There has also been an active sports program . . . football, basketball, baseball, track and swimming for the boys, and basketball, softball and volleyball for the girls. Down through the years, as you will note in special sections devoted to the athletic programs at St. Catharine, there have been many championship teams.

continued on page 40

SCOOP—First scoop of dirt at the ground breaking ceremonies for the new St. Catharine School was turned by Bishop Michael Ready April 24, 1949. Behind him is the parish's first pastor, Monsignor Robert F. Coburn.





January, 1981, photo of St. Catharine's School

Down Through The Years



Mrs. Joseph Brosmer

Year Sisters Pupils

1931-1932	4	66
1932-1933	4	103
1933-1934	4	110
1934-1935	4	124
1935-1936	4	130*
1936-1937	4	136
1937-1938	4	135
1938-1939	5	146
1939-1940	5	141
1940-1941	5	153
1941-1942	5	151
1942-1943	5	179
1943-1944	5	168
1944-1945	6	194
1945-1946	6	206
1946-1947	6	216
1947-1948	7	225
1948-1949	7	230
1949-1950	8	255
1950-1951	9	307
1951-1952	9	309
1952-1953	9	376
1953-1954	9	418
1954-1955	9	445
1955-1956	9	432
1956-1957	9	467

Year Sisters Pupils

1957-1958	9	493
1958-1959	7	495
1959-1960	8	528
1960-1961	8	512
1961-1962	8	515
1962-1963	8	540
1963-1964	8	512
1964-1965	8	494
1965-1966	6	489
1966-1967	6	488
1967-1968	8	427
1968-1969	8	415
1969-1970	7	368
1970-1971	5	320
1971-1972	6	229
1972-1973	5	210
1973-1974	4	196
1974-1975	0	203
1975-1976	0	204
1976-1977	0	209
1977-1978	0	219
1978-1979	0	220
1979-1980	0	250
1980-1981	0	246

* Estimated



Mrs. William Brennan

Who were the Sisters of Holy Cross who taught at St. Catharine from 1931 to 1974? They were, naturally, dedicated women. But can you remember their names?

In all, there were 89. Some were here briefly. Sister M. Laurentia was with us for 15 years (1931-40) and as superior from 1945 to 1951. Sr. M. Agnes Angela was here for the first 13 years of the school (1931-44). Third in seniority was Sr. M. Elizabeth Clare, who spent a total of 11 years here (1947-49) as superior (1951-55) and again as a teacher (1969-74).

Sr. M. Madeline (1931-34) was the first of the principal-superiors at St. Catharine. Others were: Sr. M. Angelita (1934-37), Sr. Margaret Frances (1937-43), Sr. M. Paul Francis (1943-45), Sr. M. Laurentia, Sr. M. Elizabeth Clare, Sr. Marie Vivienne (1955-61), Sr. M. Aquin (1961-65), Sr. M. Antonine (1965-68), and Sr. M. Claudia (1968-72). Sisters Madeline, Margaret Frances and Aquin are deceased.

Other Sisters of the Holy Cross who served at St. Catharine (*denotes deceased):

Sr. M. Ada (1954-55), Sr. M. Thomasina (1932-33, 1949-51), Sr. M. Leo Catherine (1957-62), Sr. M. Amelia Marie (1952-55), Sr. M. Anita Joseph (1950-51), Sr. M. Anselm (1947-51), Sr. M. Ann (1947-51), Sr. M. Ann Michael (1957-59), Sr. M. Philothea (1962-64), Sr. M. Richard Marie (1972-73), *Sr. Antione (1949-52), Sr. M. Armella (1965-66), Sr. M. Evarista (1958-64), Sr. M. Beatrice (1951-52), Sr. M. Beniti (1955-56), Sr. M. Brenda Marie (1964-65), Sr. M. Caroline (1944-50, 1963-66), Sr. M. Catharine de Ricci (1951-54), Sr. M. Christina (1953-56), Sr. M. Claudia (1956-57), and Sr. M. Coletta (1950-51).

Sr. M. Ursulyn (1966-70), Sr. M. Paul Ellen (1962-63), Sr.

M. Eileen Patrice (1943-47), Sr. M. Elnora (1954-55), Sr. M. Anita Marie (1958-61), Sr. M. Frances Angela (1952-53), Sr. M. Helene (1967-68), Sr. M. Helanus (1965-66), *Sr. M. Irenaeus (1938-44), Sr. M. Jane Frances (1955-56, 1970-74), *Sr. M. Frances Yeager (1937-38), Sr. M. Thomas Marie (1955-58), Sr. M. Jean Andre (1955-57), Sr. M. Jean LaSalle (1953-55), Sr. M. Joel (1948-52), Sr. Carmel Mary (1967-72), Sr. Judith Mary (1968-72), Sr. M. Julia Marie (1972-74), Sr. M. Imelda Marie (1958-60), Sr. Mary Magdalen (1958-62), and Sr. M. Kathryn Edward (1969-70).

Sr. M. Kathryn Rita (1959-65), Sr. M. Lucia (1946-48), *Sr. M. Lucy (1931-32), *Sr. M. Lydia (1954-55), Sr. M. Marcia (1956-58), Sr. M. Margery (1952-55), Sr. M. Placide (1956-58), *Sr. M. Maria Crucis (1952-53), *Sr. M. Jeanne d'Arc (1956-57, 1969-70), *Sr. Marie Andre (1944-52), Sr. M. Marie Antoinette (1953-55, 1967-69), Sr. M. Marie de Carmel (1964-69), Sr. M. Marie Michelle (1941-42), Sr. M. Marie Julie (1943-44), Sr. M. Marie Vianney (1964-67).

Sr. M. Marita (1952-53), *Sr. M. Maxine (1940-41), Sr. M. Melanie (1962-63), Sr. M. Michella Marie (1934-40), Sr. M. Melfrida (1952-53), Sr. M. Miram Angela (1957-59), *Sr. M. Paschal Marie (1963-64), *Sr. M. Paul (1960-65), *Sr. M. Paulita (1966-68), *Sr. M. Petra (1959-60), Sr. M. John Dominic (1955-58), Sr. M. Rachael Marie (1961-62), Sr. M. Celestyn (1967-69, 1970-74), Sr. M. Rita Cascia (1944-49), St. M. St. Hugh (1941-46), Sr. M. Rose Anita (1956-58, 1960-62), Sr. M. Rose Barbara (1950-54, 1963-64), Sr. M. Rose Louise (1964-65), Sr. M. Stephen Marie (1940-41), *Sr. M. Teresa Amata (1950-51), Sr. M. Teresa Ann (1965-67), and Sr. M. Bertilde (1968-69).

In the 29 years lay teachers have assisted or staffed St. Catharine's School, there have been a total of 58 lay teachers. Mrs. Raymond Schmitz, first of the lay teachers, taught from 1952-54.

Two lay teachers. Mrs. Cecilia Clifford and Mrs. Marietta Massey, are deceased. Mrs. Clifford was at St. Catharine from 1956-63 and Mrs. Massey from 1968-70.

Other lay teachers and the years they taught at St. Catharine:

Mrs. Twynham 1953-55, Miss Zitt 1957-64, Mrs. Wright 1955-57, Mrs. Noles 1957-59 and 1965-67, Mrs. Dayaub 1959-60, Mrs. Herderick 1958-70, Mrs. Brosmer 1961-73, principal 1973-75, Mrs. Carey 1960-61 and 1965-70, Mrs. Simpson 1961-74, library 1974-80, Miss DeSalle 1957-March 1958, Miss Benson September-December 1967, Mrs. McKeever 1963-65, Mrs. Roese 1964-69, library October-December 1970, Mrs. Eberst 1965-68, Mrs. Brennan 1966-75, principal 1975-1981, Mrs. Kurt Redinbaugh 1968-69, January-October 1979, September 1970-June 1971, Miss Worthington September-December 1968, Mrs. Milles January-December 1969, Mrs. Sloan 1969, Ed Stubinger October-November 1959, Mrs. Pahl 1969-72, Mrs. Roddy September-November 1969, Mrs. Bradon September-November 1969, Tom Devlin 1969-70, Miss Duzek 1969-70, Miss Delewese 1970-72.

Mrs. Dorsey September-December 1969, Mrs. Greven-camp 1969-March 1972, Mrs. Gardner December 1969-June 1970, Mrs. Wiltshire 1970-72, Mrs. Kreinbrink 1970-71, Mrs. Liewer 1970-72, Mrs. Gallen 1972-73, Mrs. Barbara Young 1972-73, Mrs. Barker 1973-74, Jack Knauer 1973-80, Miss McDonald 1974-January 1976, Mrs. Leshner 1974-75, Miss O'Leary 1974-81, Mrs. Klunk (teacher aide) 1974-76, Mrs. Riker (reading specialist) 1974-75, Mrs. Goth 1975-76, Miss Dugen 1976-81, Mrs. Devine 1976-81, Mrs. Kaelber 1977-79, Miss Callahan 1979-80, Miss Plank 1979-81, Miss Holdrieth 1980-81, Mrs. Groves 1980-81, Mrs. Young 1970-81, Mrs. Knapp 1970-81, Miss Brown 1973-81, Miss Burnett 1974-81, Miss McGarrity, 1968-69, Miss Brown 1973-81.

Down Through The Years

Year	Lay teach- ers	pupils	Year	Lay teach- ers	pupils
1952-1953	1	376	1967-1968	8	427
1953-1954	1	418	1968-1969	9	415
1954-1955	1	445	1969-1970	12	368
1955-1956	2	432	1970-1971	13	320
1956-1957	2	467	1971-1972	7	229
1957-1958	3	493	1972-1973	6	210
1958-1959	4	495	1973-1974	6	196
1959-1960	4	528	1974-1975	8	203
1960-1961	4	512	1975-1976	8	204
1961-1962	5	515	1976-1977	8	209
1962-1963	5	540	1977-1978	8	219
1963-1964	5	512	1978-1979	8	220
1964-1965	5	494	1979-1980	8	250
1965-1966	7	489	1980-1981	8	246
1966-1967	8	488			

continued from page 38

The very first football game at St. Catharine, several years before members of the Bexo Club leveled, staked out and marked the field for football and baseball, was played on a 90-yard field, according to one of our early gridiron heroes.

After a valiant effort to skin off some of the high spots and fill in a few ponds, the field was measured and the youngsters who had taken on an assignment generally handled by professional engineers made the discovery that, after 10 yards had been allowed for each end zone, the field measured but 90 yards.

These same youngsters, who had talked Father George Mason, then director of athletics for the diocese, into switching a game from Immaculate Conception to St. Catharine, were not about to give up their "home field" advantage.

Shortening the downs chains to nine yards, they marked off the field in increments of nine yards . . . and played the game.

The Parents' Organization was started in 1946. This grew to be extremely active and provided funds for various school needs. The group sponsored many functions, the biggest money maker being the annual bazaar. In 1955, this bazaar realized over \$9,400. Among their many activities, they furnished and ran the school cafeteria. After a few years of inactivity, the organization was reborn in March, 1972, resurfacing as the Home and School Association.

Sister Claudia, principal from 1968 to 1972, initiated steps in setting up an individualized learning program. Faculty members visited to meet with Sister Claudia in small groups and to discuss the program.

On Sept. 2, 1970, a faculty orientation program was held to initiate the program. Late in October, parents were invited to visit the classrooms to observe the program in operation. In January, 1971, a general meeting of parents was held to explain the program further and to answer questions. In attendance at the meeting were Diocesan School Superintendent Msgr. Bennet Applegate, his staff, and the administrators at Hartley High School.

Early in the 1970-71 school year, three and a half years before the Holy Cross Sisters departed St. Catharine, Sister Patricia Cornell met with the pastor and parish leaders to study the status of the community. She asked that the parish consider the future of the school. Similar meetings were held in October, 1971, as well as the following year, leading up to the 1974 announcement that the Holy Cross Sisters would be leaving St. Catharine's.

There are many reasons for gains and losses in enrollment at St. Catharine School from a small group of 66 in 1931 to a staggering high of 540 in 1962-63, and finally a more normal 250 in the '80s.

First, there was the normal growth of the parish. This was followed by the "baby boom" and then the "building boom" that marked Eastmoor to a large degree and Bexley to a lesser degree.

While the number of family units in the parish has not matched the fluctuation of the student enrollment, some balance is attained, at least in recent years, by adding the number of public school students attending Religious Education Program classes and the number of pupils attending St. Catharine School.



QUEEN—Mary Ann Nieman, shown above with Sister Caroline, was the 1948 May Queen. In her court (below) was Augustine Ferrar, an airline stewardess who perished in a crash Dec. 16, 1960.



GOLDEN GRADS—Here are our 1981 graduates and a teacher, Miss Simone Burnett, in the Golden Year of St. Catharine. Compare these 32 June graduates with the 66 youngsters who made up the six grades as St. Catharine School started in September, 1931.

Rachael Pallay
Timmy Wright
Renee Sadauskas
Paul Devine
Becky Phillips
Eric Welch
Stephen Ziegler
Ann Margaret Snyder
Peter Foster
Michael Rahe
Mark Wagenbrenner

Ellen Bahlmann
Bruce Coakley
Heather McKay
Scott Simpson
Laura Thompson
Donald Taylor
Mary Bricher
Jeff Schmittauer
Catherine Vogel
Alan Gummer
Kathryn Gugle

Miss Burnett
Charles Sweeney
Ursula Davidson
Charles Salva
Debbie Davis
Cathi Castro
Michael Murphy
Chris Ramey
Billy Turner
Jeff Baumann
Kelly Speakes

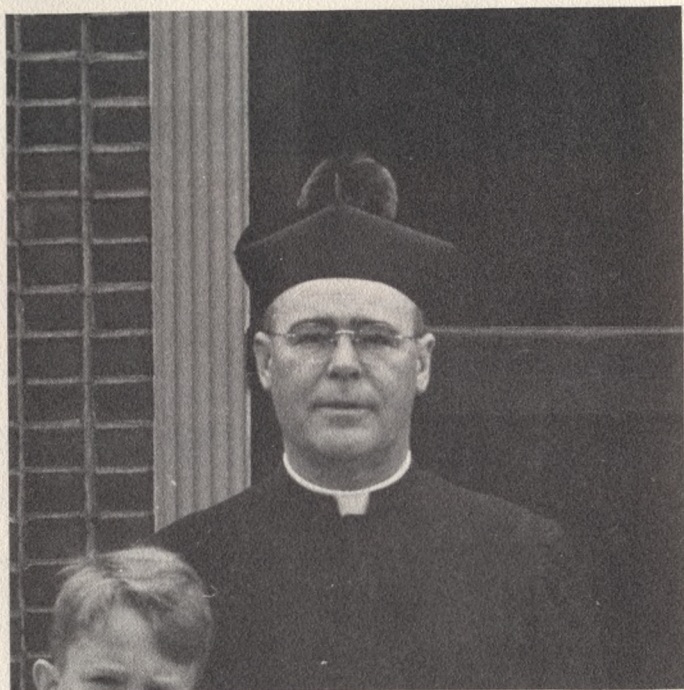


FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH—Some, but not all of these pupils were the first to start in the first grade at St. Catharine when the school opened Sept. 8, 1931, and graduated in the spring of 1939. Dressed not unlike today's eighth graders are, from left, front row, Mary C. Martin, Nellie Cambden, Aileen McGovern, Doris Cambden, Rosemary O'Donnell, Marjory Elwood, Joan McNally, Mary C. Rappold and Georgia Rossbach. Back row, Jack Zuber, George Berwanger, Roger Connor, Francis Tornos, Ed Hutchins, Jack Huebner, Bob Gambs, Patricia Weis, Jack Kuhlman, George Ward, George Bell and Bill Kaufman.

These students paved the way for so many at St. Catharine



First Four Pastors at St. Catharine



Msgr. Robert F. Coburn



Msgr. Joseph R. Casey



Rev. John J. Soltis



Rev. William T. Rardin

Pastors

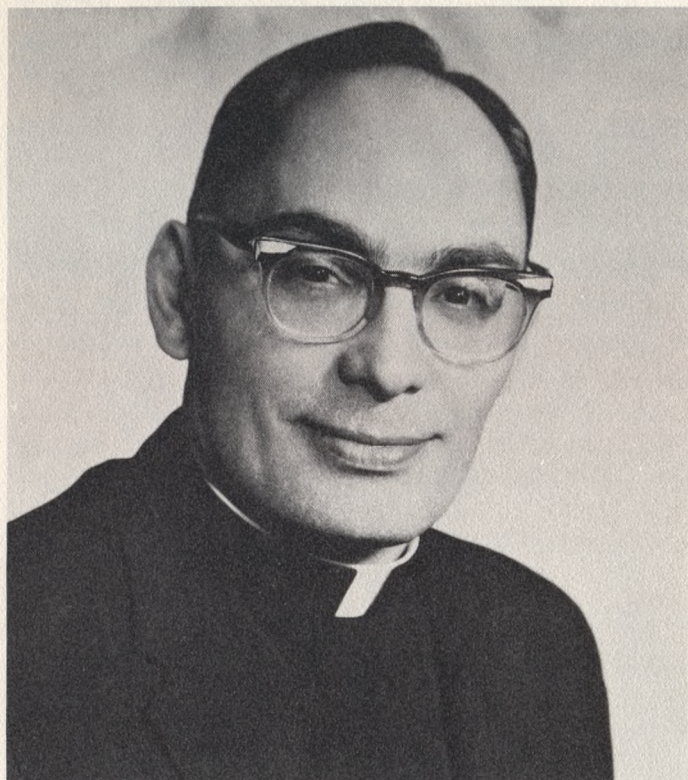
Over a span of 50 years and through four generations of parishoners, St. Catharine has had only five pastors. And two administrators.

Pioneers of our parish had, as their guiding light, confessor, friend and able leader a courageous man who had not yet attained his 36th birthday.

But when Steubenville-born Rev. Robert F. Coburn was

told by Bishop James J. Hartley that this newest parish in the far eastern reaches of Columbus and Bexley was his responsibility, he assumed his new duties eagerly and continued to serve as secretary-chancellor of the Columbus Diocese, a position he held for 10 years beginning in 1928.

At the completion of his studies in St. Vincent's Archabbey, at Latrobe, Pa., Fr. Coburn was ordained by Bishop



Rev. Anthony Borrelli

Hartley in 1922. He was assigned to St. Joseph's Cathedral and at the same time assumed teaching responsibilities at St. Charles, the newly founded diocesan seminary.

A year after his appointment as St. Catherine pastor in the summer of 1931, Fr. Coburn was named diocesan consultant. He served on the administrative council of the diocese from 1934 to 1939.

On Aug. 2, 1934, Pope Pius XI named Fr. Coburn a Papal Chamberlain.

Monsignor Coburn was named diocesan director of the newly organized Holy Name Union on Feb. 7, 1946 by Bishop Michael J. Ready, and in June of that year Msgr. Coburn was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

Monsignor, due to poor health, took a leave of absence from St. Catharine in September, 1950. During his absence, Rev. Paul J. Bernier served the parish as administrator. Msgr. Coburn returned to St. Catharine after a one year leave and remained until his death on March 15, 1956.

In his quarter of a century at St. Catharine, Msgr. Coburn witnessed the steady growth and helped solidify the foundation for a strong, vibrant parish.

The building of buildings as well as the building of a growing parish marked the Father Coburn years: the temporary rectory that still houses our present pastor and associate pastor, a temporary chapel-school, a convent, and finally a \$400,000 school.

There were bad days during the depression years. And there were very good days and good years as the parish grew numerically and spiritually under the effective guidance of Father Coburn. After Msgr. Coburn's death, the wood chapel was remodeled to increase its seating capacity by utilizing space formerly occupied by classrooms. Conversion

of former classrooms also provided parish offices. This followed building of the new school.

The parish's second pastor was a small, witty man born in Zanesville Oct. 8, 1909 and, in his words, "enjoyed a misspent youth in the baseball park of the Cleveland Indians."

The second pastor was Monsignor Joseph R. Casey. The son of Patrick F. and Grace Johnson Casey was ordained March 29, 1936 by Sigismund Waitz, Archbishop of Salzburg, Austria, at Innsbruck. He received his education at St. Charles College Seminary and at Innsbruck, Austria.

Fr. Casey was appointed a monsignor June 14, 1942 by Pope Plus XII.

Less than two years after Msgr. Casey's appointment as pastor at St. Catharine, sketches for a new, permanent church were started.

It is interesting to note at this juncture, a series of letters . . . in fact a steady stream . . . between Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann and Msgr. Casey. But even before the bishop would consider the construction of a new church, he "proposed the addition of six classrooms" to the present school building (the present school on Fair Ave.), "namely, two classrooms in the basement level and on each of the two upper floors, to be done by the Trapp Construction Company, at the guaranteed maximum figure of \$114,500, not including architect's fees, furnishings, etc., with any savings reverting to the parish. It is understood that sufficient funds are on hand to meet the cost of this improvement. Actual construction may begin at any time. I should appreciate your bringing the complete drawings and specifications here for a final review before work is started."

After a barrage of letters and, at a time when an all-clear signal seemed certain, Bishop Issenmann, showing great concern for members of St. Catharine's Parish, ordered a slash of more than 10 per cent of an earlier budget for the new church submitted to him.

In a letter to Msgr. Casey dated Feb. 18, 1960, Bishop Issenmann said that, in his opinion the building of a new church would be a \$1 million expenditure. And he added, "The rectory and parish offices remain to be built."

In light of this, and with knowledge of how much money the parish had and approximately how much would be pledged, Bishop Issenmann wrote: "The estimated parish indebtedness may be as great as \$550,000. Approval to incur this burden of debt will not be given to any parish, even the best, among which is St. Catharine's. The maximum parish debt load may not exceed \$400,000.

"Accordingly, it is recommended that you get together with your architect and general contractor to effect a reduction in cost of \$150,000. When the maximum cost (debt) is reduced to about \$400,000, kindly submit in detail wherein the savings are to be effected. Nothing of sound and safe construction is to be sacrificed.

"I regret, as you do, that we must face these economies, but I cannot permit construction to begin in view of the financial burden that will be placed upon the people of St. Catharine's."

On March 1, 1960, Norman J. Altman of Altman-Coady Company, as a follow-up to a Feb. 26 meeting with Msgr. Casey, trimmed the original budget by \$135,611, thus reducing the cost to \$760,839. Mr. Altman's alternate bid was submitted to Bishop Issenmann, Msgr. Casey and

Edward Ramsey, the architect.

More than two years after Msgr. Casey made an appeal to Bishop Edward G. Hettinger, administrator for the Columbus Diocese prior to the arrival here of Bishop Issenmann, for permission to start a fund-raising drive for a new church, the go-ahead signal was flashed in the spring of 1960.

In a March 11 letter to Msgr. Casey, Bishop Issenmann wrote:

"Approval is hereby given to you to proceed with the construction of the new church, with the Altman-Coady Company as the general contractors, at the maximum guaranteed figure of \$760,839, less the approved deduction listed in Mr. Altman's letter of March 1.

"These deductions may not represent as much of a saving as hoped for, but it is false economy to spend as much money as the church is going to cost and, at its completion, to have an unattractive house of God owing to the elimination or omission of items that really make the church a beautiful structure."

Work on the church, started April 3, 1960. The cornerstone was set Sept. 10, 1961 and work was completed in time for Midnight Mass Christmas, 1961. Formal dedication was Feb. 4, 1962.

The office wing of the old church was moved to the side of the rectory in 1963. During the remodeling, the meeting room adjacent the parish office was converted to a parish adult library. This has been useful for instructional purposes and meetings. The old frame church was demolished in October, 1963, after 32 years of "temporary" service.

Due to poor health, Msgr. Casey asked for a leave of absence Jan. 15, 1970, and retired five months later. He makes his home with his brother, Patrick, in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

The next two pastors were to serve a total of only seven years, the term of one ending in death.

Rev. John J. Soltis, born Nov. 8, 1914, the son of Andrew and Suzanna Nayernik Soltis in McConnelsville, Pa., was St. Catharine's third pastor. Fr. Soltis spent his youth in Steubenville and was educated at St. Charles and Mt. St. Mary's in Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained in 1941.

Appointed as Msgr. Casey's successor June 16, 1970, Father Soltis remained as pastor until the fall of 1974. A great portion of the parish debt was paid off while Fr. Soltis was pastor. Two years later he was named chaplain at the London Correctional Institute. He retired June 30, 1980.

Rev. William T. Rardin, like Msgr. Coburn and Msgr. Casey, was born in Ohio, at Chillicothe, Feb. 25, 1928, the son of William T. and Alberta Maier Rardin. Fr. Rardin became St. Catharine's fourth pastor Jan. 31, 1975 and served in the position until his death, on July 2, 1978, at St. Anthony's Hospital.

Fr. Rardin received his education at St. Charles, Mt. St. Mary's in Norwood and at Catholic University. He was ordained Aug. 26, 1953, by Bishop Michael J. Ready at St. Mary's Chillicothe.

On Aug. 11, 1978 . . . 40 days following the death of Fr. Rardin . . . Rev. Anthony Borrelli was appointed the fifth St. Catharine pastor.

The year 1981 may have seemed eons away to Fr. Borrelli as he assumed his duties at St. Catharine (and retained some old responsibilities), but preparing for the Golden

Anniversary of a parish started a year after his birth developed into but one of many demanding tasks shouldered by this enthusiastic man born Nov. 24, 1930 in S. Anzelo Del Pesco, Italy. His parents were Nicola and Maria C. Borrelli.

Many St. Catharine parishoners first met Fr. Borrelli when he served as chaplain at St. Anthony's Hospital. Nuns at St. Anthony's have yet to forgive St. Catharine for taking their chaplain.

Fr. Borrelli, who is a rabid fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates, tells the story of learning the English language reading the sports pages of Pittsburgh papers. Maybe a few phrases. Actually, few pastors have had Fr. Borrelli's educational background: One year in the Regional Seminary, Chieti, Italy; five years in the Diocesan Seminary, Trivento, Italy; six years at the Josephinum Pontifical College in Worthington, and additional studies at Catholic University leading to degrees in 1954 and 1957.

Ordained March 27, 1954, Fr. Borrelli is a member of the Diocesan Personnel Board and was elected as the first vicar of the Center City Vicariate. He is chairman of the Diocesan Medico-Moral Committee and a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors. He was elected to the Priests' Senate and is past chairman of that group. He has served as recording secretary and a member of the board of governors of the Cannon Law Society of America.

Fr. Borrelli is a certified chaplain for general health facilities by the United States Catholic Conference, a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and a member of the Cannon Law Society of America. He was the officialis (presiding judge) of the Marriage Court of the Diocese until 1979, and now is assistant to the presiding judge.

There has been one trait common to the five pastors and 12 assistant or associate pastors to serve St. Catharine through the church's first 50 years: their great dedication to duty.

They came from a variety of backgrounds, the steel mills of Steubenville to proper Boston to far off Italy. From German, French, Irish, Italian and good, old American stock.

Counting Father Paul J. Bernier, who was administrator of the parish from Oct. 9, 1950 to September, 1951, five of our priests have moved on to greater rewards for tolerating us, our parents, grandparents and offspring. Dead but always in the prayers of the parish are Msgr. Coburn, Fr. Rardin, Fr. Endres, Fr. Sughrue and Fr. Bernier.

In retrospect, it is ironic indeed to note that Fr. Bernier, who with Fr. Endres carried the burden of the parish during the illness of Msgr. Coburn, died nine months before Msgr. Coburn was victim of a heart attack. Fr. Bernier, a close college friend of Msgr. Casey at St. Charles, died June 2, 1955 at London, Ohio. Msgr. Coburn died the following spring, on March 15, 1956, at Mount Carmel Hospital.

Fr. Thomas Bennett, a professor at St. Charles, was administrator from the time of Fr. Rardin's death until the appointment of Fr. Borrelli.

Ask five members of the parish who their favorite pastor was and there is a good chance you will get five different answers. All were dedicated men whose aims and prayers were directed toward a great, unified parish. St. Catharine parishoners have, indeed, been five times blessed to have had such outstanding Shepherd to counsel us spiritually.



SMILING IRISH EYES—Everyone was Irish, even Dr. O'Backiewicz, when the American-Irish Golf Association held its one and only meeting Jan. 13, 1970 at the Columbus Athletic Club. Monsignor Joseph Casey was elected president, which was only fitting in view of the fact he was guest of many members of St. Catharine parish, who were saying good-bye to their pastor. Other officers of the pseudo club organized for the sole purpose of having a dinner for Monsignor, were Charley Lorms, vice president; Don Shock, treasurer, and Billy Collins, secretary. In the front row, from left, are Art McGovern, Dan Cannon, Zack Beers, Jim Bournier, Dr. Joe Backiewicz, Tony Scanlon and Frank Boyd. Second row, Vince Lane (or a part of him), Bud Stein, Ed Bringardner, Dr. Donal O'Leary, Bud Murphy, Billy Collins, Monsignor Casey, Charley Lorms, Don Smith and John Ulrich.

Good Excuse for Farewell Banquet

The humor of St. Catharine's second pastor, Monsignor Joseph Casey, was at or near its best at a time generally reserved for serious comment: during a banquet at the Columbus Athletic Club honoring him as he stepped down as our pastor.

Putting down, word for word, the humor of a Casey or a (Bob) Hope generally means leaving out the sting of the zingers. Not true in the case of our light-hearted, self-deprecating ex-pastor, as you will note in quotes taken from that address to a group that identified itself as charter members of the American-Irish Golf Association.

Portions of Monsignor Casey's talk follow:

"I will try to avoid the main issue of saying good-bye.

"I haven't been introduced as a speaker for a long time. In my years I have introduced many speakers. One time I

was introduced and oddly enough, Bishop Sheen had to introduce me.

"It came about in this way: Bishop Ready was consecrated in Washington as Bishop of Columbus. There was a big banquet afterwards and somebody had to speak for the Diocese of Columbus. It was very interesting, too, the way I received the assignment. We had a meeting in the Columbus Chancery; Bishop Hettinger presiding. All kinds of committees were formed to prepare for the reception of the new bishop. The very last thing, just as we were about to break up, Bishop Hettinger fixed me with his flint eye and said:

"Oh, by the way, you are going to speak for the Diocese down in Washington."

"I said, well, Bishop, I never did anything like that in my life.

"He said, 'How about that! We'll now close the meeting with a prayer.'

"The day of the banquet came and I walked into the Mayflower Hotel to the ballroom and I saw the size of it. It was just a little bit smaller than the Gulf of Mexico and the speakers' table stretched roughly from here to Parsons and it was filled with cardinals and archbishops and bishops.

"When I saw that, my first thought was to run out of the place and go to the Russian Embassy and seek asylum.

"Well, my big moment came and the eminent toastmaster took a look at the program and his face took on the expression of a man who suddenly detected the strong odor of some rare brand of cheese and he said:

" 'The next speaker will be Father Carey from the Diocese of Cleveland.' Well that had the effect of unsettling my composure.

"In my opening paragraph, I had a sentence that was supposed to go something like this: 'Something was as plain as the stars in the wide sweep of the skies.' And I had the misfortune of throwing this into reverse saying that: 'Something became as plain as the stars in the wide swipe of the skis.'

"From that point on, the speech deteriorated. I went back to the Raleigh Hotel and cried myself to sleep.

"That was a bad start, but I have been through other experiences. I'd been with Bishop Hartley, to whom there is none which. He was the most even tempered man I have ever met. He was always mad.

"Under him, I had one day off a year and I liked to spend that day at home in Cleveland with the family having Thanksgiving dinner. Well, to do this it was necessary to take a plane to Cleveland in the morning and find a train to come back in the evening. This was in the days when plane travel was still considered a little bit risky.

"The airlines were doing everything possible to promote passenger trade. At that time, when you ordered a ticket, about 15 or 20 minutes later somebody from the office would deliver your ticket personally.

"So I ordered my ticket for Thanksgiving Day and gave specific orders and directions that it was to be delivered to 212 East Broad, the Cathedral Rectory.

"Well, no wonder the airlines were a little bit risky in those days. The man couldn't even read numbers. He brought the ticket to 198 East Broad Street and it was one of the rare occasions when the Bishop himself opened the door.

"Well — he found out what it was and there was the biggest uproar you ever heard. The language was shocking.

"Finally the door slammed; then I heard the episcopal tread up the stairs. It reminded me of Boris Karloff treading the stairs in a haunted dwelling. Finally he reached my desk with his eyes flaming. He threw the ticket on the desk and said: 'Boy, if you fall out of the plane, who's going to do the work around here?'

"I had to admit my planning hadn't advanced that far. I didn't have any answer for that.

"But he was a compassionate man. One time there was a real siege of flu going around and I caught it and it struck pretty good. Well, he came up to my office just as I was about ready to fall off the chair and he took a look at me and said:

" 'Boy, you go home and go to bed for half an hour.' You just can't beat compassion like that. I think I was a little late, about 15 minutes . . . but I was back there.

"Bishop Ready came along and I worked under him for about three years. After which I was relieved of the chancery duties for reasons of health. To be honest with you, it wasn't my health; it has his. I didn't even know he was having trouble. He revealed it to me in a burst of confidence. I remember his exact words. He said: 'You make me sick.'

"Innocently enough I said, 'What's the matter?' And he grew purple and sweat stood out on his head and the cords in his neck and with an imperious gesture, looked at his wrist watch and said: 'Father, it's now twenty minutes after ten; I have an appointment downtown at three o'clock and I just don't have time to tell you all that's wrong.'

"If I had been a sensitive person, I might have been offended at that. I spent a lot of time since trying to think of an adequate thing I should have said, but I haven't come up with anything yet.

"I've been trying to postpone it, but the time has come and I must say good-bye. This is the most distasteful part. I hope you'll do me a favor; I hope that nobody here will feel sorry for me because it would be out of order completely. For 34 years I've been the happiest man alive. I would be guilty of ingratitude if I were to complain about a minor adversity.

"There are few men who ever lived who have had the happiness that I have experienced. Particularly in the past 14 years when I have had so many wonderful experiences and made so many friends and I've enjoyed time after time some good, hearty laughs.

"Billy Collins here reminds me of an occasion out at the Country Club when he played a round with Bud Murphy. After three or four holes, Billy approached Bud with tears in his eyes and said:

" 'Bud, please do me a favor.'

"Bud said. 'Sure, what?'

" 'Well, don't tell anybody you took lessons from me.'

"Somebody must have blabbed, because pretty soon Billy was over at Walnut Hill. I played with Billy out at Walnut Hill one day and found out that he was pretty much of a smart alec. We were on one of those par fives and I had what I considered a good drive for me; about 75 yards down the side of the fairway. He came up and hit one; it must have been 250. So I cautioned him. I said more than one man has come up with a double hernia trying to out-drive me."

In a single serious note (only the good Monsignor can say where, in the foregoing prose fiction leaves off and fact begins), the departing pastor said: "Thank you. You don't honor me today. I would like to think so, I'm vain enough to think so; but I realize that what you are doing today is an honor to the priesthood. Without the priesthood I wouldn't amount to a thing and you know it. So what you do is an honor to the priesthood, and I am very grateful for the honor that you show and I am grateful to the enumerable kindnesses and courtesies that you have extended to me. Now I say good-bye, which means in Old English, a short form of 'God be with you' and I pray that God will be with you forever."

(Reprinted with permission of Msgr. Joseph Casey)

St. Catharine Parish Has Been Served by 12 Assistant Pastors

While St. Catharine's has had only five pastors during the parish's first 50 years, there have been 12 assistants plus a number of priests from St. Charles who have assisted on weekends.

Discounting an occasional assist while he went off on brief trout fishing trips, Fr. Coburn toiled without help until Rev. Richard Endres was named his assistant March 3, 1948 . . . nearly 17 years after Bishop Hartley told Fr. Coburn he was responsible for the souls of 100 families in the Bexley-East Columbus area.

Fr. Endres, who doubled as a professor at St. Charles, was a convert from New Philadelphia, Ohio. He served the parish until Sept. 7, 1950. Fr. Endres attended St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa., St. Charles and St. Mary's in Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained Feb. 28, 1948 by Bishop Ready. Fr. Endres died at Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada, Ohio, in 1973.

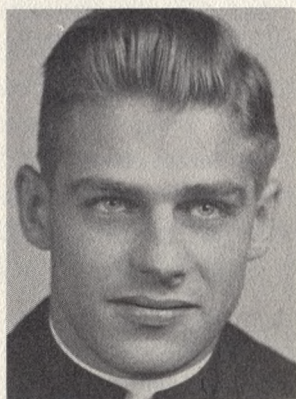
Rev. John Graf, a Portsmouth, O., native who received his education at Holy Redeemer High School in Portsmouth, St. Charles and Mt. St. Mary's in Norwood, succeeded Fr. Endres at St. Catharine. He was ordained by Bishop Ready at St. Joseph's Cathedral in September, 1950 and was assigned to St. Catharine Sept. 7 that year. On Sept. 20, 1951, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Cathedral as an assistant.

Fr. Graf served here under Fr. Paul J. Bernier, who was administrator during a one year leave taken by Msg. Coburn. Fr. Bernier, who was ordained by Bishop Hartley, May 12, 1935, was named pastor at St. Patrick's in London, where he died June 2, 1955.

The parish's only administrator/assistant was Rev. John J. Sughrue. St. Catharine's third assistant effective Sept. 20, 1951, Fr. Sughrue served as administrator from March 21 until June 14, 1956, following the death of Msgr. Coburn. Fr. Sughrue, born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1909 and ordained by Bishop Hartley in 1934 after studying at Boston College, St. John Seminary, Brighton, Mass., and Mt. St. Mary's, Emmetsburg, Md., died Sept. 6, 1968 after serving as administrator at St. Ladislav.

For the next three years, from June 14, 1956, until Sept. 1, 1959, St. Catharine's assistant was Rev. Thomas Cadden. Chillicothe, which was to give St. Catharine its fourth pastor in Fr. Rardin, also was the birthplace of Fr. Cadden. He was born April 24, 1930. Fr. Cadden was ordained one year ahead of his class, on Aug. 27, 1955, by Bishop Ready. He was appointed as assistant chancellor at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sept. 1, 1959.

That same day, Sept. 1, St. Catharine had its second assistant from Massachusetts in Boston-born Fr. Robert



Rev. Richard Endres



Rev. John Graf



Rev. John J. Sughrue



Rev. Thomas Cadden



Rev. Robert F. Lemon



Rev. Thomas L. McLaughlin



Rev. Frederick Lloyd



Rev. Willis Eckstein

F. Lemon. After serving St. Catharine for only 14 months, Fr. Lemon was sent to St. Joseph's Cathedral Nov. 4, 1960. Early in 1962 he became a chaplain in the U.S. Navy . . . USS WASP . . . but left the Navy because of illness in 1965.

A big, friendly man with a booming voice, Fr. Thomas L. McLaughlin, succeeded Fr. Lemon and became St. Catharine's sixth assistant pastor. The son of Thomas L. and Leona Gordon McLaughlin, Fr. McLaughlin (he was always Fr. Mac) was born in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Oct. 23, 1930. He was educated at St. Charles and St. Mary's Norwood, and ordained May 26, 1956, by Bishop Ready. On June 24, 1964, Fr. Mac was named pastor of Immaculate Conception, Dennison, Ohio.

Rev. Carl E. Drake, a convert to the Catholic church in 1956, was still another Chillicothe contribution to St. Catharine. He was born March 31, 1938 and received his education at St. Charles and St. Mary's, Norwood, before being ordained May 30, 1964, by Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann. Fr. Drake remained at St. Catharine's until June 16, 1967, when he became assistant at New Lexington St. Rose.

Rev. Paul Goode became the eighth assistant pastor at St. Catharine's on June 17, 1964. After attending St. Charles, Fr. Goode was a student at the North American College in Vatican City and was ordained at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. He remained at St. Catharine until June 16, 1970. A year later, following an assignment at Immaculate Conception, Dennison, O., he was granted a leave of absence.

A small man with a powerful, gifted voice served as assistant pastor at St. Catharine's from June 2, 1970 until Aug. 17, 1972. He was Rev. Frederick Lloyd, son of Betty Rauch Lloyd and the late Howard G. Lloyd, a career military man. Fr. Lloyd, who was born in Elizabeth City, N. Carolina, was educated at St. Charles and Mt. St. Mary's, Norwood. He was ordained May 27, 1967 by Bishop Clarence Elwell. Presently the chaplain at St. Anthony's Hospital in Columbus, Fr. Lloyd, upon leaving St. Catharine, went to Germany to study liturgical music. He is a soloist with the Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra.

Columbus-native Rev. Willis Eckstein followed Fr. Lloyd at St. Catharine. The son of Herbert and Dorothy Jane Hadler Eckstein, Fr. Eckstein was educated at St. Charles and Mt. St. Mary's in Norwood and was ordained May 27, 1967 by Bishop Edward G. Hettinger. After spending two years at St. Catharine, Fr. Eckstein was appointed assistant pastor at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Aug. 12, 1974. On July 10, 1979, he was made pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.

Few assistants at St. Catharine, although all outstanding in their own way, could match the popularity of Rev. Lawrence Reichert. He came to St. Catharine Aug. 12, 1974 and when he left for an appointment at Zanesville St. Nicholas, July 11, 1978, tears flowed freely from the eyes of children and adults. And their love for him has not diminished in the years that followed. Fr. Reichert, who served St. Catharine longer than any assistant with the exception of Fr. Sughrue, was born in Columbus Nov. 30, 1944. He was the son of Charles Jacob and Margaret H. Reichart. After attending St. John's, Holy Family, St. Charles and Mt. St. Mary's in Norwood, Fr. Reichert was ordained May 29, 1971 by Bishop Clarence Elwell.

The 12th and present assistant at St. Catharine, Rev.



Rev. Lawrence Reichert



Rev. James Ruef



Rev. Thomas M. Bennett



Msgr. George T. Wolz

James LeRoy Tonkinson Ruef, is, like Fathers Endres and Drake, a convert. He also has many "first," as the only priest in the Columbus Diocese who is also a civil lawyer, as the owner of bachelor's and master's degrees in theater, as an actor in summer stock, and as manager of a dinner theater in Columbia, S. Carolina. Born in Springfield, O., he was raised in a very strong Lutheran background but became a Catholic at the age of 18. He is the son of William H. and Anna Marie Tonkinson Ruef. Fr. Ruef was educated at Springfield High School, Ohio Northern University, Franciscan Study Center, the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, and the Pontifical College, Josephinum, in Worthington.

Under Monsignor Coburn, a number of priests assisted on Saturday with confessions and on Sunday for mass. Fr. Albert Culliton was the first of these and he led a steady parade of priests associated with St. Charles. A Capuchin priest helped on weekends at one time.

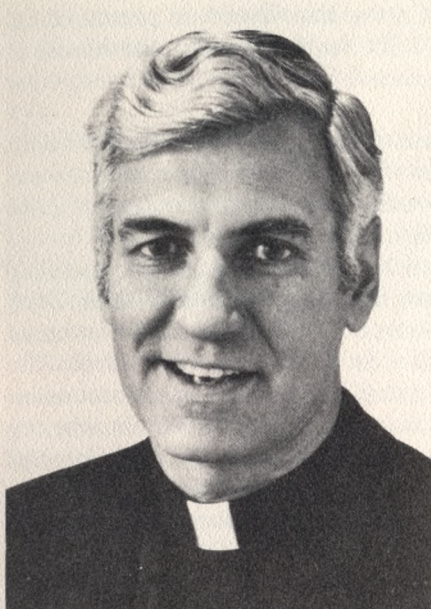
From 1956 until June of 1969, Msgr. George Wolz, who was rector at St. Charles and later pastor at St. Mary's, one of the city's oldest parishes, assisted on weekends. Poor health forced him to retire July 31, 1979. Msgr. Wolz is a native of Columbus.

Rev. Thomas Matthew Bennett, who is on the faculty at St. Charles, has assisted at St. Catharine since 1969 and was administrator at St. Catharine from July 5, 1978 to Aug. 11, 1978 following the death of Fr. Rardin. Fr. Bennett was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1931.

Our Priest-Sons



FIRST FOR ST. CATHARINE—St. Catharine's first priest-son, Rev. Thomas McCarthy, O.P., is shown during consecration at his First Mass. The deacon is the late Fr. Michael J. Minichiello, O.P., who was one of Fr. McCarthy's teachers at Aquinas High School. The date was June 19, 1960, three days after his ordination.



Rev. Arthur F. McGovern, S.J.



Rev. Robert F. Sifferlin



Rev. William A. Dunn

All from St. Catharine

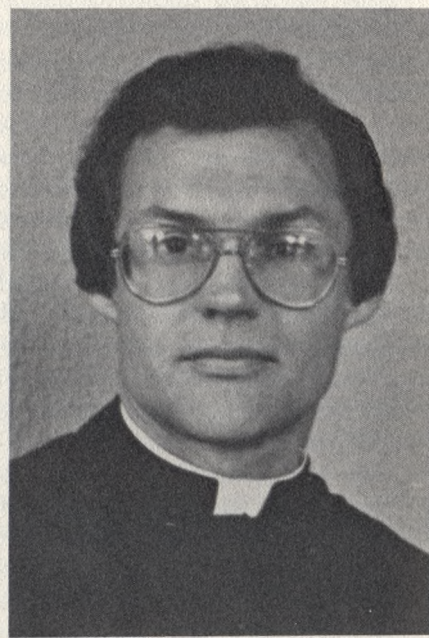
The six priests pictured on this page as well as the two shown on pages 50 and 52 are all products of St. Catharine Parish. And all eight have relatives in the Parish as we observe our Golden Anniversary.



Rev. Thomas Brosmer



Rev. John M. Baker



Rev. Robert Schwenker, OMI



Rev. John D. Corbett, O.P.

Priest-Sons

The first of nine sons of St. Catharine to be ordained to the priesthood is the Very Reverend Thomas B. McCarthy, O. P., the son of Olive E. McCauley McCarthy and the late James J. McCarthy. He was born Jan. 16, 1933. He was baptized at St. Catharine.

Mrs. McCarthy is one of many ties Fr. McCarthy has with St. Catharine, more than 20 years after saying his First Mass here. His sister, Mary Jean (Mrs. Philip Holdrieth) and seven of the Holdrieth's eight children are at St. Catharine. In all, Father has 14 nieces and nephews who have attended or are attending St. Catharine School. His sister, Patricia (Mrs. Thomas C. Farrell) lives in Gahanna and has six children. A brother, James J. died in 1975. Olive McCarthy resides at 501 Northview Drive.

Father McCarthy started his education in the first grade at St. Catharine, graduating in 1947. He spent four years at Aquinas High School, where he obviously was inspired by the Dominican priests. Then came Providence College in Providence, R.I., where he received his A.B. in Philosophy. At Immaculate Conception College, Washington, D.C., he received his S.T.B. in Theology. And at Catholic University he earned Masters and Ph.D Degrees in education, guidance and counseling, and marriage counseling.

Thomas B. McCarthy was ordained June 16, 1960 at St. Dominic Church, Washington, D.C., and said his First Mass three days later at St. Catharine. He was the only priest-son of the parish to say his First Mass in the parish's original church. Msgr. Joseph Casey, pastor at St. Catharine at the time, observed that it was fitting for a Dominican to offer the First Mass in a parish named for a Dominican Saint.

Fr. McCarthy has served parishes at St. Dominic, Detroit, Mich.; Holy Rosary, Hawthorne, N.Y., and St. Dominic, Youngstown, Ohio. He taught at Notre Dame in West Haven, Conn., and served as Master of Brothers at the Dominican House of Studies and was prison chaplain at the D.C. Department of Correction, both in Washington, D.C.

Since 1976, Fr. McCarthy has served as pastor of St. Gertrude, a parish of 1,100 families serving the Medeira/Indian Hill area of Cincinnati. St. Gertrude School (grades 1-8) has 325 students.

Thousands of men and women have been associated with St. Catharine during the first 50 years of the parish. Few, if any, have had the educational opportunities of Rev. Arthur F. McGovern, S.J.

None can match his achievements in the literary world.

Father McGovern was born in Columbus Dec. 4, 1929, the son of the late Arthur F. and Philomena Ambrose McGovern. He attended St. Catharine school from the second through the eighth grade and among his best memories are, "Playing tackle on a football team that was the first in the school's history (1941) to win a championship. (We're St. Catharine's blue and gold; we're a mighty team to hold. . .). Also, May Day processions; serving as an altar boy; singing in the choir."

His favorite teacher was Sister Agnes Angela; his best friends: John Eberly (deceased) and Syl Blake.

He attended St. Charles, hitchhiking to school each day. He played on the golf team and was editor of the school paper. McGovern graduated from St. Charles in 1947, then came four years at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., as a pre-law student, captain of the golf team and prefect of his Sodality.

Father McGovern's seminary studies started in the summer of 1951 at Milford, Ohio, and later at Baden, Ind. He was ordained a Society of Jesus priest June 14, 1962 and said his First Mass the following day at St. Catharine. He received his doctorate from the University of Paris (the Sorbonne) in 1967 and has been both teacher and writer since.

As a seminarian, from 1956-59, he taught high school math in Chicago. After received his Ph.D, Fr. McGovern taught philosophy at a Jesuit school of theology in North Aurora, Ill., from 1967 until 1970, and since then has taught philosophy at the University of Detroit. Since 1972, Fr. McGovern has served as religious superior for Jesuit seminarians. During the summers, when he isn't golfing or playing tennis, two of his many hobbies, he gives retreats for sisters.

In addition to his apostolic work, Fr. McGovern has been active as a writer. In the spring of 1980, Orbis Books published his major work: "Marxism: An American Christian Perspective." Critics have called the book "an indispensable work", "an exceptiona book," and "the most impressive work of its kind in the English language."

St. Catharine's only Jesuit priest, whose writings have focused chiefly on Marxism/Communism, also has written for America, Commonwealth, the National Catholic Reporter, the New Catholic Encyclopedia, and for other scholarly reviews. Late in 1980, he received the fourth annual "President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research" from the University of Detroit.

Father McGovern's only tie to St. Catharine is his step-mother, Mrs. Helen McGovern, who resides at 670 East-moor Blvd. His sister, Eileen Doyle, is in Christ the King parish, and a brother, Kevin, is in St. Andrew's. Another brother, Kim, lives in Denver, Colorado. A stepbrother, Joseph Mackinnon, is in Christ the King, and a stepsister,

Joan Loomis, lives in Florida.

The parish's third priest-son, Father Robert F. Sifferlin, lived less than six years following his ordination, on Dec. 22, 1962.

Fr. Sifferlin was the son of Francis and Helen Sifferlin. He was born Aug. 8, 1936 in Columbus and attended St. Mary Magdalene Elementary School. After his parents moved into St. Catharine's parish in 1951, Sifferlin attended St. Charles and graduated in 1954. Taking his college work at St. Charles, he received his B.A. degree in 1958. Later, he earned a Masters degree in History at Ohio State University.

While attending Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, he was ordained by Bishop Clarence G. Isenmann at St. Joseph's Cathedral. His class, ordained early because of the Second Vatican Council sessions, completed theology studies after ordination. The newly-completed St. Catharine Church was the scene of his First Mass on Dec. 23, 1962.

On June 5, 1963, Fr. Sifferlin was assigned as assistant pastor of Holy Name Church, Columbus. While at Holy Name, he also served as a teacher at Watterson High School. In June, 1965, he was appointed to the faculty at St. Charles and took up residence there. He later was in residence at Holy Rosary in 1966-67.

Fr. Sifferlin took ill in 1966 and after several operations he became bedfast. He spent his last months at his parents' home on S. Gould Rd. He died Dec. 6, 1968, four months after his 32nd birthday.

During his illness, Fr. Sifferlin had a steady stream of visitors . . . friends, students and fellow faculty members. Francis Sifferlin, who was responsible for assembling information and pictures on the priest-sons for this book, commenting on these visits, said "They came not so much to console him but rather to receive his advice and comfort."

Two and a half years after Fr. Sifferlin's ordination, the parish had its fourth priest-son, Father William A. Dunn.

Fr. Dunn, the son of Bill and the late Marion Dunn, was born May 9, 1939, and attended two schools before setting eyes on St. Catharine for the first time, as a third grade pupil, in 1947.

Son of a hotel man, Fr. Dunn started his elementary schooling at St. Raphael's in Springfield (where his father had graduated from high school) but when Mr. Dunn was named manager of the Virginia Hotel in Columbus, Bill Dunn suddenly switched to the old Cathedral School.

After graduating from St. Catharine in 1953, Fr. Dunn spent the next eight years at St. Charles, receiving his A.B. degree in philosophy in 1961. Next came Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati. He received his Master's Degree in Theology in 1964 and was ordained to the priesthood May 29, 1965 in Cincinnati and said his First Mass at St. Catharine.

From 1965-67, Fr. Dunn was an assistant at St. Michael's Worthington, and at the same time taught at Watterson High School. While at Blessed Sacrament Church in Newark from 1967-68, he had a teaching assignment at Newark Catholic High School. From 1968 to 1975, he was on the faculty at St. Charles.

Since 1974, Fr. Dunn has served as Diocesan Director of Religious Education and chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. He was in residence at St. Joseph Cathedral from 1974-76 and since 1978, after serving as pastor of Holy Rosary for two years, has been in residence at Our Lady of

Victory. In April this year, Fr. Dunn was appointed pastor at Lancaster St. Mary.

Mr. Dunn remains a member of St. Catharine and is visited often by Fr. Dunn and his daughter, Sister Ellen Dunn, O.P. A second son John, lives in Paris, France. Mrs. Dunn died in 1972.

Father Jay Baker (officially, it's John M. II) can look out the windows of his parents home on S. Harding Road and get a clear view of St. Catharine's. The parents are Jack and Marjorie Baker.

Jay Baker was born March 11, 1951 at Mishawaka, Indiana. Two years later the family moved from South Bend to Columbus. Jay attended St. Catharine's school until the fifth grade, at which time he enrolled in the Columbus Academy Middle School.

At Columbus Academy, where he graduated in 1969, Jay Baker received the Headmaster's Trophy for academic excellence.

Then it was on to Washington University in St. Louis, where Baker received a B.A. degree in Literature. He received an invitation to graduate school at Cornell University in Comparative Literature but declined and entered the North American College, in Rome, in 1973.

Ordained a deacon April, 1976, Fr. Baker graduated from the pontifical Gregorian University in June of 1977.

Fr. Baker's ordination took place at St. Catharine July 30, 1977. Bishop Edward Hermann ordained Fr. Baker.

From Aug. 15, 1977 through the same date in 1979, Fr. Baker served as associate pastor of St. Francis Church in Newark. He was then granted a leave of absence to accept a scholarship to Brown University in Providence, R.I., to pursue his doctorate in Comparative Literature.

Fr. Jay has three sisters. Ellen (Mrs. Robert Peterson) has taught for 10 years and is in the Whitehall School System. Donna (Mrs. John Mahon) is in special education. His youngest sister, Marjorie, will graduate from Bishop Hartley High School in 1982.

Like the parish's first priest-son, Fr. Thomas McCarthy, Fr. Tom Brosmer came from a family that was here at St. Catharine when it all started 50 years ago. His grandparents were in the parish in 1931.

Tom Brosmer was born Nov. 9, 1943, the son of Joe and Ellen Brosmer, two proud pillars of St. Catharine's Church. He started his elementary schooling at St. John the Evangelist in 1950 and transferred to St. Catharine in 1954 when Joe and Ellen moved East.

From 1957 until 1965, Thomas J. Brosmer attended high school and college at St. Charles. Theology followed from 1965-69 at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Brosmer was ordained at St. Joseph's Cathedral May 24, 1969 by Bishop Clarence E. Elwell. His First Mass was at St. Catharine's Church the following day.

Since his ordination, Fr. Brosmer has had four assignments. He was associate pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas from 1969-73 while teaching at Bishop Rosecrans High School. From 1973-76, he was associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Dennison and taught at Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School. The next assignment (1976-79) was as associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual

Help in Grove City with a teaching assignment at Bishop Ready High School.

Fr. Brosmer was appointed pastor of St. Agnes Church, Columbus, in 1979 and held that position as St. Catharine prepared to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

Fr. Brosmer has two sisters, Kathleen and Sister Beth Brosmer, a Franciscan; and two brothers, Bill and Bob. And in addition to his parents, he has two aunts in St. Catharine, Margaret and Carolyn. Mrs. Brosmer was a teacher and principal at St. Catharine.

St. Catharine's only Oblate Father is Rev. Robert Schwenker, OMI, which stands for Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Not so immaculate, however, is Father Schwenker when he turns mountain climber, skis or goes all out on the tennis court. "He was the All-American boy," recalls his sister, Mrs. Carmen (Donna) Cavallaro, the wife of the world-renowned pianist and orchestra leader. "It was a big joke at the Oblate House when I told some of Bob's fellow priests how he had taught my children to escape from a second floor window and to climb trees," says Mrs. Cavallaro, adding that there was a burst of laughter when told her brother hadn't changed, that he insists on climbing down the tree outside his window.

Robert Schwenker went through the eight grades at St. Catharine although he did not become a Catholic until he was 16. He attended St. Charles, where he played football as a senior and graduated in 1954. He spent his junior year at Canterbury Prep in Connecticut. Next came Notre Dame, where he graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts in 1958. Schwenker served as a Medical Supply Officer in the United States Army in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1959 to 1962.

He entered the Seminary for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1963, professed his perpetual vows in 1967 and was ordained an Oblate Priest on May 31, 1969. Father Schwenker served as associate pastor for six years at Holy Angels Church in Buffalo, N.Y. He was appointed Vocational Director for the Eastern American Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1975. His office is located at the Oblate College, Washington, D.C. From 1975 until the publication of this book, in addition to Vocation Counseling and Direction, he has conducted vocational workshops, youth and family retreats, and parish missions and renewals throughout the Eastern United States.

Father Schwenker is the son of Mrs. Charles A. Schwenker Ritter and the late Charles A. Schwenker. His stepfather, Paul E. Ritter, as well as his brother-in-law, Carmen Cavallaro, are members of St. Catharine's Parish. Fr. Schwenker was a roommate of Joe Ryan at Notre Dame and has close ties today with Ryan, Jack Baumann, Tom Martin. Dave Savely and Dick Warnick, all of Columbus.

Father Schwenker credits his faith and even his vocation "to the many fine families I was associated with at St. Catharine." He is proud that his class of 1954 at St. Charles produced three other priests, Fr. Sifferlin, Fr. Jim Walter and Fr. Joe Ehwald, "Fr. Sifferlin and Msgr. Paul O'Dea encouraged me most as I debated my future," says Fr. Schwenker.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Corbett, Jr., are the parents of the youngest of St. Catharine's priest-sons, Rev. John Dominic Corbett, O.P.

Thus, Dominicans, you might say, serve as the perfect bookends for St. Catharine's priest-sons, first Fr. McCarthy, and most recently Fr. Corbett.

John Dominic Corbett was born July 18, 1951. He received his elementary education at St. Catharine and is a graduate of Bishop Hartley High School, where he participated in dramatics, debating, contributed to the school paper and was on the Bishop Hartley "In the Know" television team.

He entered the Dominican Order in 1974 at Dover, Mass., and has been a student at the Dominican House of Studies since 1975. He made solemn vows in 1978. He was ordained a Dominican Father on May 12, 1980, in Washington, D.C., by Bishop Thomas C. Kelley, O.P., and celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Catharine's Church on May 17.

Fr. Corbett has served internships in several hospitals, worked in a Half-way House in Nashville, Tenn., and taught theology in New Orleans at a Providence College, from where he graduated in 1973. During his year as deacon, he assisted Fr. McCarthy at St. Gertrude's parish in Madeira, Ohio.

Fr. Corbett's parents are members of St. Catharine's parish and reside at 259 Preston Road. He has four sisters, Margaret Marie Corbett of Washington, D.C., Mary Jane King of San Jose, Calif., Aileen Compennolle of Evanston, Ill., and Katie Corbett of Columbus.

Fr. Corbett is a nephew of Sister Thomas Albert, a Dominican sister.

Another member of the parish who was in the priesthood is Fr. Tom Farley, son of Bob and Helen Farley. He was ordained in 1971 by Bishop Elwell.

Columbus Has Had Six Bishops In 50 Years

While St. Catharine's parish has had but five pastors through its first 50 golden years, the Diocese of Columbus has had six bishops during this same period.

Bishop James Joseph Hartley, who served the Columbus Diocese longer than any man (1904-44), had the foresight to see the needs of Catholics in what has developed into the Bexley-Eastmoor area of a growing Columbus.

Bishop Hartley's successors were:

Michael J. Ready, 1944-57;

Clarence Issenmann, 1957-64;

John J. Carberry, 1965-68;

Clarence E. Elwell, 1968-73, and the present bishop, Edward J. Hermann.

Prior to Bishop Hartley, the Columbus Diocese had three bishops:

Sylvester H. Rosecrans, 1868-78;

John A. Watterson, 1880-99 and

Henry Moeller, 1900-03.

Bishop Carberry was named Cardinal of St. Louis in 1969 and retained that position until his retirement in 1979.



Sr. Agnes Anne Roberts



Sr. Johanna Eberly



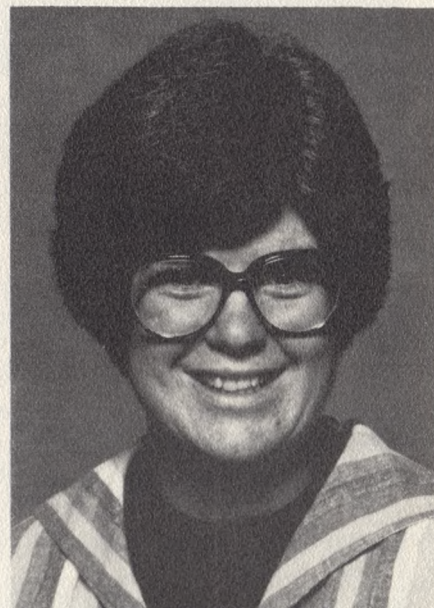
Sr. Benedetta



Sr. Jeanne Laufersweiler



Sr. Ellen Dunn



Sr. Beth Brosmer

Daughters of Parish Serving As Nuns from Columbus to Bangladesh

Among the distinguished graduates of St. Catharine grade school are nine women now serving God as Sisters of three orders.

In this age of numbers, the Dominicans, with four, lead the way. There are three Holy Cross nuns from St. Catharine. The other two are members of the Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity (OSF).

Sisters Laurene Hagman, Ellen Dunn, Johanna Eberly and Roderic Schaub are the Dominicans.

In the Holy Cross order from St. Catharine are Sisters Marie (Pamela) Bush, Benedetta (Rose Dattalo) and Agnes Anne Roberts. Holly Cross nuns taught for 42 years at St. Catharine.

Sisters Jeanne Laufersweiler and Beth Brosmer are the Franciscans from our parish school.

Four of the nine are working or studying in Columbus while two others are in the Steubenville Diocese.

Meanwhile, in far away Decca, Bangladesh, is Sister Marie Bush, a 1954 St. Catharine graduate with Sister Ellen Dunn, who is Director of Southern Parish Ministry Center serving six Southern Ohio Counties and working out of McArthur. Also in the Steubenville Diocese with Sister Ellen Dunn is Sister Roderick Schaub, principal of Holy Rosary Grade School in Steubenville.

Mt. Carmel Medical Center has the good fortune of having two of St. Catharine's dedicated daughters. Sister Agnes Ann Roberts is Director of Dietetic Services and Sister Benedetta is in Pastoral Care at the Columbus hospital.

Also located in Columbus are Sister Jeanne Laufersweiler, who is attending Ohio Dominican College and residing at Our Lady of Victory Convent; and Sister Johanna Eberly, who is at St. James the Less Convent.

Sister Laurene Hagman is Christian Service Coordinator at Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. Sister Beth Brosmer is at



Sr. Roderic Schaub



Sr. Laurene Hagman



Sr. Marie Bush

Stella Niagara, N.Y.

Sister Benedetta is the daughter of Mrs. Rose Dattalo, 211 S. Ardmore Road, and the late Samuel Dattalo. The Dattalos were members of the parish when St. Catharine first opened its doors in 1931.

Sister Marie entered the Holy Cross order while living in St. Catharine Parish. She is the daughter of Daniel Bush of Millersdale Road and Mrs. Harold Platter of Reynoldsburg.

Sister Laurene Hagman O.P., is the daughter of the late Robert E. and Laurene C. Hagman, who resided at 248 Harding Road.

William Dunn and the late Marion Dunn are the parents of Sister Ellen Dunn. Mr. Dunn resides at 2793 Sherwood Avenue.

Sister Johanna Eberly's parents, both deceased, were Francis and Catherine Eberly who lived at 4401 Stellar Drive.

Sister Roderic was not Catholic while she attended St. Catharine's school for eight years. She became a convert in 1956. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Schaub, who formerly resided on Fair Avenue and now make their home in Oxnard, California.

Sister Jeanne Laufersweiler is the daughter of William and Mary Laufersweiler of 256 S. Virginia Lee Road. Mrs. Laufersweiler researched all the material for this section.

Joseph and Ellen Brosmer of 161 S. Harding Road are the parents of Sister Beth Brosmer. Her brother, Tom, is pastor at Columbus St. Agnes, giving the Brosmers the only priest-sister team.

The late James and Agnes Roberts, who resided at 166 N. Ardmore, were the parents of Sister Agnes Anne Roberts. James and Agnes were members of the parish when St. Catharine's was started in 1931.

Two "adopted" daughters of the parish who are nuns are Sister Molly Lorms, O.P., and Sister Stephanie Thompson. Sr. Molly did attend St. Catharine School for six years. Her father, Charley Lorms, long-time golf professional at Columbus Country Club, is a member of St. Catharine's and lives on E. Broad Street. Sr. Stephanie, who lived in St. Aloysius parish and attended St. Joe's Academy, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thompson, who joined St. Catharine parish in 1973.

Sister Molly Lorms was an outstanding golfer prior to joining the Dominican order in Adrian, Mich., in 1958, while

a member of Christ the King parish. She taught at two colleges, at Barry College Graduate School of Social Work in Miami, Fla., from 1965 to 1973, and at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Mich. In 1976 she became Director of Catholic Social Services at Lima, Ohio, in the Toledo Diocese.

Sister Stephanie, who celebrated her profession at St. Catharine Church in September, 1980, entered the Dominican Convent in Cincinnati. She is teaching French and English at Notre Dame High School in Cincinnati.

Another adopted daughter of the parish is Sister Nancy Leddy, daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Leddy of 573 S. Weyant. The Leddys were married at St. Catharine but did not return to the parish until 1961. Mr. Leddy died in 1967, the same year Sister Nancy made her final vows in the Franciscan Order. She is located at Logan and teaching in Southeastern Ohio.

First Catholics here in 1749

While the Columbus Diocese was not established until 1868, there are traces of the Catholic faith in Ohio dating back to 1749, when Jesuits in the expedition of Celeron de Bienville preached to the Indians in areas within the Ohio borders as now defined.

In that same year, Jesuits Joseph de Bonnecamp and Peter Potier celebrated mass at the mouth of the Little Miami River and in the vicinity of Sandusky Bay, respectively.

The first Catholic settlement was founded in 1751 among Huron Indians near Sandusky by Father de la Richardie. In 1790, Benedictine Pierre Didier ministered to French immigrants in the area that became Ohio.

In 1812, Bishop Flaget of Bardstown visited and baptized Catholics of Lancaster and Somerset Counties. Nine years later, the Cincinnati Diocese was established. The Cleveland Diocese was established in 1947 and Cincinnati was made an archdiocese in 1850.

Following the establishment of the Columbus Diocese in 1868, three more diocese were formed in Ohio, at Toledo in 1910, at Youngstown in 1943 and at Steubenville, primarily from the Columbus Diocese, in 1944.



ALL PRESIDENTS—The 19 women photographed in front of the main altar at St. Catharine Church all served as president of the Altar Society. From left, front row, Jeanne Herbert (1964-65), Madeline McCann (1963-64), Nora Meyers (1971-73), Marilyn Trapp (1959-60), Faith Bailey (1970-71), Catherine Martin (1947-48) and Vi Allwein (1980-81).

Middle row, Betty Biggert (1946-47), Margaret Meehan (1965-66), Romona Nieman (1958-59), Helen Van Heyde (1960-61), Helen Farley (1955-56) and Jean Kennedy (1970-71). Back row, Mary Jane Sullivan (1969-70), Carolyn Allen (1979-80), Carey Ryan (1970-71), Freda Lingo (1950-51), Jule McCaffrey (1962-63) and Jo Koerner (1949-51).

Altar Rosary Society Presidents Down Through the Years

Before the formation of the Altar Society at St. Catharine, the sacristan without portfolio was Mrs. Melvin A. (Margaret) Sells.

Margaret Sells saw the immediate need of a person to care for the altar, the altar linens and vestments. She had the time and the desire to help but, admittedly, little else.

"I had to learn by error." Laughingly (now), she relates how she placed flowers on the altar . . . for a funeral.

Advised by Father Coburn that this was not protocol, Margaret never repeated the error.

Mrs. Sells, aided by other pioneer members of the parish, raised money to buy vestments, linens, cruets, etc., through socials and card parties at the homes of Mrs. Clem Smetlzer, Mrs. John Seidensticker, Mrs. James Sugar, Mrs. Leo Rodenfels, Mrs. Sells and others.

"We had very little to start with," Margaret Sells states. "But it was a wonderful feeling, to be close to God as I cleaned the altars and made sure everything was spotless," recalls Mrs. Sells, a widow now living in Christ the King parish.

While Mrs. Sells worked alone at church, she credits others for their financial assistance and for helping her with some of the ironing.

One of the best-known members of St. Catharine's, Mrs. Joseph (Helen) Van Heyde, is Mrs. Sells' niece.

A group of dedicated women from the Altar-Rosary

Society of Holy Rosary parish, upon the suggestion of Father Coburn, organized St. Catharine's Altar Society. The first president was Mrs. Fred Burkey (Neva). Mrs. Burkey is deceased but her daughter, Margaret Martin, is a member of St. Catharine. Unfortunately, Mrs. Martin was unable to find a suitable picture of her mother for our Golden Jubilee book.

Building up the new organization fell on the shoulders of the second president of the Altar Society, when Mrs. John Connor (Mary) was elected president in 1932. Mrs. Connor had four children but there is only one survivor, Mrs. Charles Yardley (Ione), who still calls St. Catharine home. Also in the parish are the great grandchildren of John and Mary Connor.

By 1933, the Altar Society had become an extremely important part of the parish. Under the guidance of the next president, Mrs. F.L. Gruber (Katherine), the Altar Society began to flourish. Large groups of women participated. Jane Gruber, her daughter, is still a member of St. Catharine's and was a great help in relating happenings of those days.

Jane Gruber gave a most interesting account of an activity that was a highlight of the era. She recalls:

"On Saturday evening, March 4, 1933, at the Elks Club at Fifth and Broad Street, the present location of Midland Mutual Insurance, a sellout group gathered for a benefit card

party, sponsored by the Altar Society of St. Catharine Church. Co-chairman, I believe, were Katherine Gruber and Mary Connor.

"I was busy selling candy from table to table. Business was good, when suddenly a great lull overcame the entire group. Candy sales were finished. Word spread throughout that Fred Zuber, vice president of the Ohio National Bank, had been called away. The bank had received word that President Roosevelt, on his inauguration day, was calling a special session of congress Sunday, March 5, closing all banks and savings and loans.

"The party had been a very successful financial venture for St. Catherine's. However, it did not end happily for the guests present, or St. Catharine's, all unsure as to what would come."

Only those who lived through the period can fully appreciate Miss Gruber's graphic description of the night's events and the attending shock.

But, as time proved, it took more than bank closings and even the Great Depression to slow the pace and great dedication of St. Catharine's women.

Mrs. Fred Zuber (Anna) became the fourth president of St. Catharine's Altar Society. Her son, Jack, offered a picture of his mother along with a picture of the first group to go through the eight grades at St. Catharine. Jack was in that 1939 graduating class. The Zubers had two other sons, Tom and Jerry.

There was a two-year period, 1935 and 1936, when no one held the title of president. However, the work and activities were continued through the guilds.

In 1937, Mrs. Thomas J. Carroll (Dorothy) was elected president and she worked diligently for the Altar Society for two years.

From 1939 until 1944, only the guilds were active, but they served the parish well.

Once again, in 1945, the Altar Society was reborn under the leadership of Miss Helen Corbett, one of the original members of the parish. There are no records of special events during the year Miss Corbett served as president but it has been determined she helped to organize a larger, stronger and more efficient group of women. Miss Corbett worked for many years at the Cathedral Book Store and personally assisted Father Coburn in selecting furniture, china, etc., for the rectory when the parish was starting in the fall of 1931.

All of the first six wonderful women who served as president of St. Catharine's Altar Society are deceased. Their leadership and great dedication not only gave strength to the organization but inspiration to the people who followed them in office.

During 1946-1947, Miss Betty Biggert was president. Under her guidance, the work begun by Miss Corbett continued.

Seven presidents followed Miss Biggert from 1947 through 1956. They were: Mrs. T. Vincent Martin (Catherine), Mrs. Paul Tracy (Ardene), Mrs. Robert Koerner (Jo), Mrs. Richard R. Rodenfels (Zita) deceased, Mrs. A.J. Harold (Dorothy) address unknown, Mrs. R.J. Jacobs (Kathleen), Mrs. John Dunkle (Catharine) deceased, and Mrs. Robert Farley (Helen). It was during this 10-year period that the Altar Rosary Society, as it was then known, set up a format



LEADERS ALL—Four who served as president of the Altar Society at St. Catharine are, from left, Rita Stai (1966-68), Ellen Brosmer (1956-58), Kathleen Jacobs (1953-54) and Ardene Tracy (1948-49).

for the organization and began to expand on services to the parish and the community.

The first and foremost duty of the Altar Rosary Society was to care for the altars. This work was done by six to eight women who cleaned and cared for the flowers and linens used on the altars.

A Communion Sunday was set aside for once-a-month participation by members of the Altar Rosary Society, attending Mass in a group. Once a year, a Communion breakfast was served, at the school or a local restaurant.

There were committees whose members worked on other projects. One committee worked on Catholic Charities. Another worked with Family Welfare in the parish and surrounding communities.

Rest Home visits and caring for the elderly of the parish and community was still another area in which the Altar Rosary Society took an active interest. Members of the Society would go to funeral homes and say the Rosary for deceased members.

There was always work in the area of Religious activities. The DCCW (Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) was introduced during these years and St. Catharine's parish was active in the programs at the diocesan level.

Social activities were very important in the Altar Rosary Society as these event provided the organization with the necessary financial funds to carry on the various projects in the parish. The social events included card parties, style shows, dinners, dances and bazaars.

Beginning with the term of Mrs. Joseph Brosmer (Ellen) in 1956-58, a booklet was published. Each member of the Altar Rosary Society received a copy. In this booklet were the Opening Prayer of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Society's Patroness; lists of officers, committee chairmen and a program for the year.

Monsignor Casey was the Society's moderator at this time. During Mrs. Brosmer's term, the new church was in the planning stages, and she was requested to begin a financial drive for the main altar, which was to cost \$25,000. Many social events were held to raise money for the gigantic project.

During the years from 1956 to 1969, the booklet published during Mrs. Brosmer's term in office continued. And, year after year, more areas of work and activities were added.

A detailed description of the duties for each committee was outlined starting in 1961-62, at which time Mrs. Edgar Lucas (Joan) was president. During her term, all loose material and clippings were arranged and put into scrap books. Record books were neatly organized for future reference. However, these books and records were lost, misplaced or destroyed during a lapse of the Society between 1973-1979.

Between Ellen Brosmer's term and Mrs. Lucas', the following presidents were in office: Mrs. Donald Nieman (Romona), Mrs. James Trapp (Marilyn) and Mrs. Joseph VanHeyde (Helen). These women all worked hard to build up the funds for the main altar. All were excellent leaders.

The new church was completed in time for Midnight Mass, Christmas, 1961. At that time, funds raised by the Altar Rosary Society to pay for the main altar were turned over to Msgr. Casey. There was still a large debt from the Society's original pledge. As a result, it wasn't until five Society presidents later, that the debt was paid off.

Mrs. George (Jule) McCaffrey succeeded Joan Lucas and became the Association's 22nd president in 1962-63. Following her were Miss Madeline McCann, Mrs. Edwin Herbert

PARTY TIME—Social events dotted the calendar at St. Catharine from the early days of the parish. In this festive group, seated, from left, are Mrs. L.W. Ford, J. Real Neth and Mrs. Thomas (Dorothy) Carroll, who served

Jr. (Jeannie) and Mrs. John Meehan (Margaret). It was St. Catharine's good fortune to have leaders of their ability.

In 1966, Mrs. William Stai (Rita) was elected president and it was during her term (1966-68) in office that the Altar Rosary Society finally succeeded in paying off its debt. The targeted \$25,000 figure that loomed so large for so many years was, at last, reached.

The final drive planned by Rita Stai was a "Sew and Show" style show and card party. It was prepared and staged by members of the Altar Rosary Society and their families.

It was under Rita Stai that the First Saturday devotions to Our Lady of Fatima began at St. Catharine. It is an active part of the parish activities today and Rita still leads the Rosary and Fatima prayers every First Saturday since her term as president. During these two years, the Altar Rosary Society was extremely active and it is believed that the period was marked by the largest attendance ever recorded in the parish.

Following Mrs. Stai's two-year term, Mrs. Marge Wilderman was elected president. She is no longer in Columbus but remains active in church work.

During this period, many women began working outside the home and there was a decline in membership in the Altar Rosary Society.

Mrs. John Sullivan (Mary Jane) took office in 1969-70. Sunday Mass attendance for the Altar Rosary Society showed a sharp decline and Mrs. Sullivan suggested evening Mass before the meetings and this arrangement was fairly successful.

For 1970-71, the Society had not one but three presidents: Mrs. James Ryan (Carey), Mrs. Blake Kennedy (Jean) and

as president of the Altar Society in 1937-38. Standing, Tom Carroll, Mrs. Lee Hall, Dr. L.W. Ford, Mrs. J. Real Neth, Walter Reiter, Mrs. Reiter and Lee Hall.



Mrs. Faith Barley. Carey Ryan was Social Activity leader, Jean Kennedy was DCCW leader and Faith Barley was Religious Activity leader.

This arrangement didn't meet with the greatest success, but it did hold the organization together and the following year Mrs. Thomas Meyers (Nora) was elected president, an office she held for two years. It was at this time that the name of the organization was changed for a third time. It became the Women's Club.

There was a brief rally but in 1973 Father John Soltis suggested it should not be active. However, from 1973 to 1978, Nora Meyers served as Administrator.

Father Borrelli named a steering committee to reorganize the Women's Club in 1978. The committee was composed of Nora Mayers, Hilda Prunte, Mary Jane Sullivan and Jean Kennedy. The group spent six months reorganizing. Mrs. Dwight Allen (Carolyn) was elected president for 1979-80.

Under Carolyn Allen's leadership the Women's Club once again became an important part of parish activities.

As this book was printed, the Women's Club president was Mrs. Vi Allwein. From the beginning of her term in office, Mrs. Allwein made every effort to increase membership and make the organization the guiding force it had been in the past. One new program introduced at this stage was

the Golden Age Club for senior citizens of St. Catharine.

Over the past 50 years, members of St. Catharine's Altar Rosary Society and Women's Club have provided pastors, assistants, the parish and the community with many of their greatest needs.

Through the joint effort of everyone involved, officers and members of St. Catharine's Altar Rosary Society and Women's Club, St. Catharine's has achieved success and growth as a parish.

There is no way to measure or weigh the time, effort and sacrifices they have made to make St. Catharine's a better parish. They were from the start and still are the backbone, stamina and strength of St. Catharine's.

If it is better to give than to receive, then all who have given of their time, knowledge and worldly goods to further the success of the Altar Rosary Society and Women's Club will receive God's blessings and grace for their endless hours of labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

(Editor's note: Hilda Prunte, a relative newcomer to St. Catharine's, is to be commended for the many hours she spent researching this story and collecting pictures of all but two of the association's 32 presidents over a 50 year span.)



KATHERINE GRUBER



ANNA ZUBER



HELEN CORBETT



CATHERINE DUNKLE



JOAN LUCAS

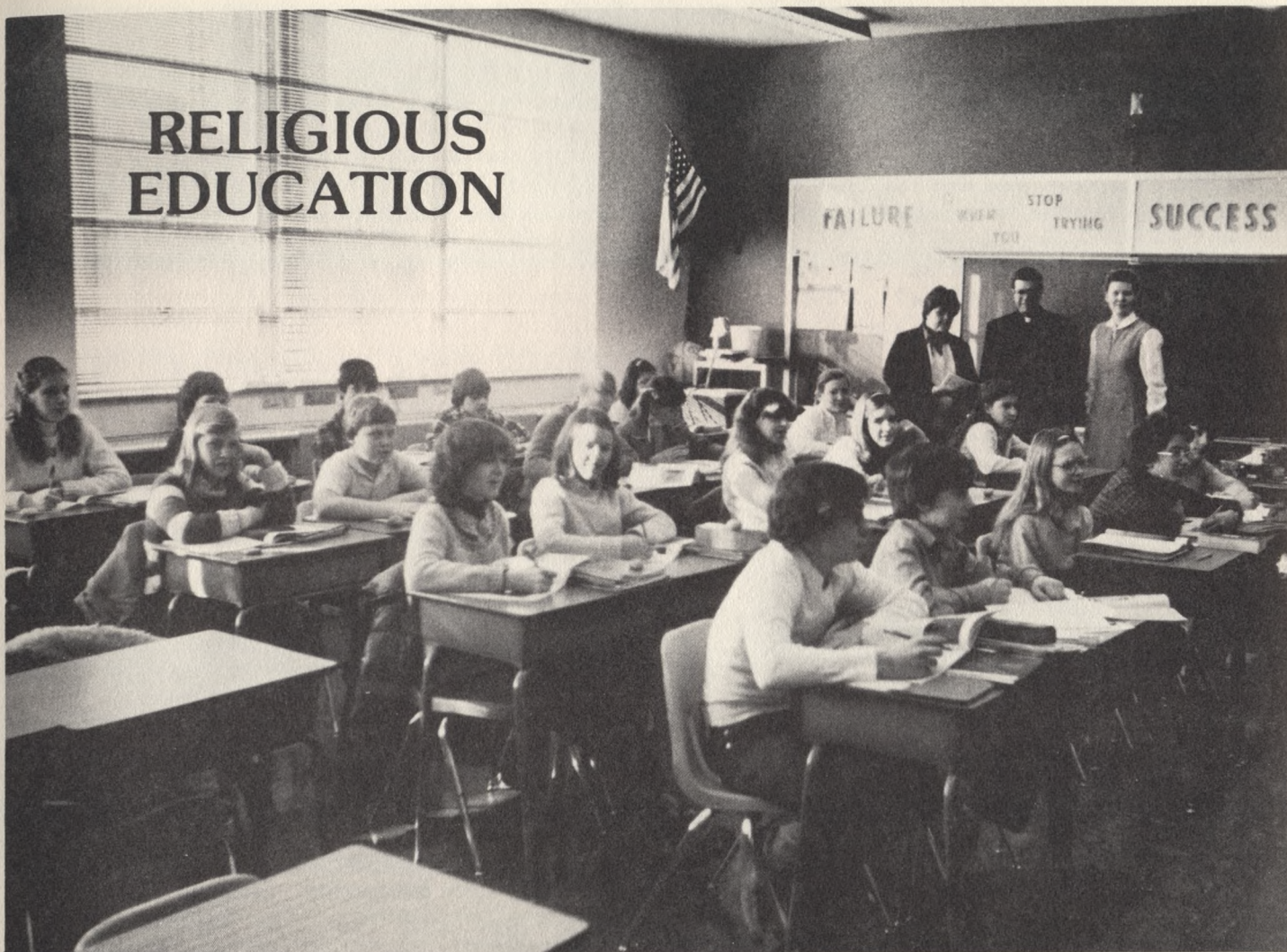


MARGE WILDERMAN



ZITA RODENFELS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS—St. Catharine's Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Pat Skeele, Brother David Gonder, S.D.B., and Mrs. Paula Gummer are shown with seventh grade Religious Education class (1980-81) taught by Mrs. Gummer.

Religious Education Program

St. Catharine's formal Religious Education Program was started in the Fall of 1970. The first staff members were parish volunteers with little or no experience but with a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm.

Most of the teachers were mothers of the children attending CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine). Classes were for children not attending Catholic schools.

Classes were established for children in grades 1 through 12. There also was a pre-school class for youngsters 3 to 5.

Each year the Religious Education Program continued to grow until, in 1972, it reached a point where a Religious Education Director was needed. The first director was Regina Robley, who assumed her new duties in late July of 1972. She held the position for eight months.

Notre Dame Sister Diana Reed served as director from 1973 until 1976.

The present director, Patricia Skeele, succeeded Sister Diana Reed on July 1, 1976.

Starting the 1980-81 school year, there were 217 students

in grades 1 through 12 and 36 youngsters in the preschool/ kindergarten program.

"The program of Religious Education," states Mrs. Skeele, "is much more than teaching the students from the public schools."

The Term "CCD" is not generally used in the diocese, but rather Religious Education Program.

The Religious Education Center is responsible for coordinating and implementing the following programs: Inquiry Classes, Adult Education, In-Service Teacher Training (for certification), Advent and Lenten Programs, Family Life Programs, Koffee Klatches, Scripture Sessions, Eucharistic, Reconciliation and Confirmation Updates for parents of students who will be receiving these sacraments and Baptismal preparation for parents-to-be.

In addition to working in cooperation with the school on Sacramental programs, the Religious Education Center also coordinates various Liturgies for the students throughout the year.

Teachers must be certified to teach in the Religious Education Program, or must be working on certification. The director of the Religious Education Program is now required to have a degree in Religious Studies/Education/Theology. Mrs. Skeele is working on a Masters Degree in Theology at the University of Dayton. She is chairman of the Diocesan Association of Religious Educators for 1980-81. The professionally-run program at St. Catharine's and other parishes are under diocesan guidelines.

The Religious Education Center also offers Special Sacramental classes and Instruction classes to those students who come into either the school or religious education program without having received the sacraments or instructions in the faith.

During the 1980-81 school year, there were 22 teachers in the Religious Education Program at St. Catharine.

"To a large extent Religious Education deals with Religious facts and their meaning. Religious Education is a process through which Christians grow and become aware of their purpose in life. But beyond this, it sets up the condition for the possibility for the FULL religious growth on an individual," states Mrs. Skeele. She continues, "Hence, our goals include deepening the faith of the students, shaping the students moral attitudes, and hopefully widening his/her awareness of what the role of religion plays in his/her life.

"We also hope to encourage continuing opportunities for religious experience not only for the student but also the

families of the students and the parish community," notes Mrs. Skeele.

The director of St. Catharine's Religious Education Program further states, "Primarily, we wish to continue and expand the formal religious education of our children, to meet the specific needs of our parishioners on the Adult Educational Level, to promote teenage involvement in parish life and to expand our Inquiry and Sacramental programs. We also will continue to provide opportunities for our catechists to obtain certification and to develop a comprehensive Family Religious Education program in the Year of the Family and also the Decade of the Family."

Religious Education Program classes are held on Sundays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. for grades 1-12, and 11 a.m. to noon for preschool. Students come from eight public and private schools: Columbus Academy, Columbus School for Girls, Bexley Senior and Junior High Schools, Cassady, Eastmoor, Cassingham and Fairmoor.

Report cards are given every six weeks. Attendance is taken every Sunday, with calls to the parents for two absences. The school, rectory and church undercroft are used for classrooms.

There are occasional retreats, days of reconciliation, liturgies and field trips for the students to enhance their religious education.

St. Catharine's 49th year "was the best ever" for its Religious Education Program," according to Director Pat Skeele.

ST. CATHARINE CHOIR IN 1971—St. Catharine's Choir, under the direction of Marilyn Trapp, is shown during a Zanesville appearance at a Mass celebrated by St. Catharine product Father Tom Brosmer, at St. Nicholas Church. From left, seated, Jo Koerner, Susie Green, Margaret Jones, Mindy Trapp, Dorothy Fix, Emily Maniere,

Susan Driggs, Susie Mussio, Marilyn Trapp and Helen Walsh. Standing, Joe McCann, Bill Rausch, Len Iannarino, George Rieser, Fr. Fred Lloyd, Bob Trapp, St. Nicholas parishoner and Joe and Ellen Brosmer. Photo was by Tony Shannon, who also was a member of the choir.





HELPING HAND—Dan Cannon of St. Catharine Parish helps out as he hands food

packages to the hungry at St. Lawrence Haven, where the poor always finds help.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society dates back only to 1965 at St. Catharine.

There were five members of the Society. George Gugle III was the first president. Other original members were Dan Cannon, Reed Davidson, James Doud and Joe McCann.

Monsignor Joseph Casey was moderator from 1965-69. Father John Soltis was the spiritual leader from 1970-1974 and Father William T. Rardin from 1974 until his death in 1978. The pastor at the time of the printing of this book, Father Anthony Borrelli, assumed the duties when he succeeded Fr. Rardin Aug. 11, 1978.

Others who have served as St. Vincent de Paul president were Don Smith, John Connor, Bill Kammer, Gene Stock, Dan Cannon, Paul Bennett and Tom Meyers, who held the office through 1980.

Catharine McCabe held the position of vice president from 1979-80.

The Society has had only two treasurers, Jim Doud (current) and Dan Cannon. And there have been but two secretaries, Frank Cafarella (current) and Joe McCann, who held the position from 1969-73.

Past members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Catharine were Keith Helfer, Jack Kearns, Aldie Larson, Francis Thieken, Ken Kerscher, Chuck Comerford, Bill Buoni, John Stolarski, Bill Dollenmeyer, Mrs. Don Smith,

Mrs. Reed Davidson, Mrs. John Connor and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Postlewaite.

At the time of publication of the parish's 50th anniversary book, the following held membership in our St. Vincent de Paul Society: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bennet, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cannon, Mrs. Catharine McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cafarella, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Storck, Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCann and Jim Doud.

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month after 7 p.m. Mass, with Rosary for deceased members of the Society and the parish.

St. Catharine's St. Vincent de Paul Society finances all its charitable projects with money collected on the fifth Sundays of the four months each year containing five Sundays.

Records of the Society are incomplete. But for nine of the 11 years from 1970 through 1980, expenditures totaled \$20,017.73, topped by the \$2,986.05 in 1979 and \$2,975.42 in 1980. The nine year average was \$2,224.19.

At the local level, the contributions of St. Catharine parishoners provide finances to help the poor and underprivileged who need assistance.

St. Vincent de Paul Society provides food to families for three or four days to tide them over when food stamps are lost or stolen or when Welfare checks are late.

The Society provides funds to St. Lawrence Haven to feed the homeless, the drifters and derelicts, the winos and alcoholics and those who are down and out.

Money from the Society is also given to the St. John Evangelist Food Pantry for the distribution of canned goods and dry foods to the poor of the inner city.

In extraordinary cases, the Society has even paid utility bills and helped to provide furniture, bedding and appliances to families in dire need of the minimum necessities of life.

Dan Cannon, the senior member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Catharine, spends two days a week at St. Lawrence Haven, where he serves coffee and sandwiches to the less fortunate. Dan has helped alcoholics through Maryhaven and the AA.

Paul Bennett takes care of the majority of food orders. Dan, Paul and Tom Meyers, according to Frank Cafarella, "have been the workhorses of our group."

Tom Meyers has obtained furniture for many families. Tom and Paul Bennett have helped the Vietnamese families in our parish. Both are Extraordinary Ministers.

Catharine McCabe visits the sick of the parish. Gene Storck has been helping the handicapped on a regular basis by teaching reading. Joe McCann started the practice of reciting the Rosary on meeting nights. Joe is a Special Minister of Holy Communion and a member of the choir.

Frank Cafarella keeps the records, keeps the parish informed through the church bulletin and prepares the annual report for the District Council. Frank and Jim Doud are regular servers at the 7 p.m. Mass on the first and third Mondays.

Various Societies of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the Columbus Diocese share in the financial support of St. Lawrence Haven, the Food Pantry at St. John the Evangelist and other charitable ventures.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic organization of lay persons, founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam and his companions. Placed under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul, it derives its inspiration from St. Vincent's thinking and work, and seeks, in a spirit of justice and charity and by a person-to-person involvement of its members to help those who are suffering.

Other basic principles of the Society:

1) Faithful to its founders, it constantly strives to renew and adapt itself to the changing conditions of the world.

2) Catholic in character, it is open to all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbors. In some countries, circumstances may lead to the acceptance of Christians of other confessions or members of other creeds who accept its principles.

3) No work of charity is foreign to the Society. Its work, through a person-to-person contact, encompasses every form of aid that alleviates suffering and promotes the dignity and integrity of mankind. The Society strives not only to alleviate need but also to discover and redress the situations which cause it. It serves everyone, regardless of creed, opinion, color, origin or caste.

4) Members of the Society are united in the same spirit of poverty and sharing. They form, with those they help, one and the same family throughout the world.

Vincentians strive, through prayer, meditation on the Scriptures, fidelity to the teachings of the Church and in



HELP OTHERS—Five men who have contributed their talents, time, dedication and love to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Catharine are, from left, front, Dan Cannon, Paul Bennett and Frank Cafarella. Back, Jim Dowd and Tom Meyers.

the various aspects of their daily lives, to bear witness to the love of Christ in their relationships with those most in need.

"You have the poor with you always" (Matt. 26:11). The Vincentian is at their service. He does not judge; he is available.

According to Sister Mary Duffy, a Joliet Franciscan stationed at Columbus St. Mary, new St. Vincent de Paul conferences were established in 1980 at Chillicothe St. Mary, Columbus Immaculate Conception, Gahanna St. Matthew and Newark St. Francis. Sr. Mary is the Vincentians' diocesan president. Her report was made during the Society's annual Mass, breakfast and meeting Jan. 11, 1981.

In a report compiled by the Society's executive secretary, William Bond of Columbus Holy Spirit, active membership in the diocese increased by 17 men and women, to 238 Vincentians.

Twenty-three conference reports, according to Bond, showed that during 1980 Vincentians made 5,274 visits to homes and 1,188 visits to institutions. He especially cited Alum Crest Nursing Home and Chillicothe Correctional Institute, visited regularly by members of several parish conferences.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's "soup kitchen," St. Lawrence Haven, served an average of 200 people week-day, "approximately 46,000 bags of food" during 1980, reported Bond.

Auxiliary Bishop George Fulcher celebrated the Jan. 11, 1981, Mass. Father Michael Donovan, diocesan chancellor, was the speaker.



FIRST CHAMPS—This 1941 team was honored at a banquet by the Bexo Club after winning St. Catharine's first City Championship. Front row, from left, Jack Dowd, Tom Boland, Joe Sugar, Sonny Gugle, Al Eichenlaub, Kevin McGovern, Mac McGovern and Syl Blake. Back, Coach Bob White, Tom Tracy, Bo Nester, Bill O'Donnell, Capt. Mike Eberle, John Rossback, Mike Ryan, Dick Edison, Dave Ford and Fred Bateson. In the inset at right is Pat Kavanaugh.

Bexo Club

About the last thing members of the old Bexo Club would associate themselves with would be the ecumenical movement.

The promotion or fostering of Christian unity began, according to some Protestant groups, in the 1800s.

Catholics were more than 100 years picking up the idea, and by this time the Bexo Club was a thriving, non-profit organization bent on improving the athletic image of St. Catharine School. And St. Catharine Parish.

You didn't have to be a Catholic to belong to the Bexo Club. In fact, there were certain, strange advantages to the non-catholic who was a member of the Bexo Club, according to Bud Murphy and Bob Koerner. Laughed Murphy, and Koerner concurred, "If there was any money to handle, we generally turned it over to our non-Catholic members."

Paul Tracy laughed with them even while reminding them that he seemed to serve a lifetime as secretary-treasurer.

There is sharp disagreement when the Bexo Club started. Some say it was operating prior to the start of St. Catharine Parish. Tracy said the first meeting he recalls attending was in the mid-30's in the basement of Charley Lingo's home on

Gould Rd.

All seem to agree on the aim of the club and scene of most of the regular meetings . . . at Hoffman Garden at 3015 E. Main St.

"We met once a month except in the summer months," recalls Korner, who first became involved when his family moved into the parish in 1941. Murphy came along two years later. Tracy, along with his brother and mother, were charter members of St. Catharine.

Koerner also remembered, "Father Coburn rarely missed a meeting."

There was plenty of work to be done in the young parish. And the Bexo members indicated from the start that they were willing to do their share with some to spare.

What now serves as a regulation football field, a baseball diamond and four diamonds for pee wee and little league baseball, was a field filled with weeds, a very large tree and a very irregular surface.

Bexo Club members decided to change all that.

The weeds had to go. The tree had to be removed. And the ground had to be leveled before Koerner, now retired



BEXO TOUCH—Msgr. Coburn is shown during dedication of the St. Catharine athletic field that had been drained and graded by members of the Bexo Club. Dedication was Aug. 25, 1945.

from the County Engineer's office, Ed Eberly and his son John and John's wife volunteered to survey the field.

"It was 90 degrees in the shade," recalls Koerner, who also recalls that as soon as the project was completed, he and Ed Eberly headed for Hoffman's "and ordered two beers each."

Several thousand feet of tile, following a herringbone pattern, covered by gravel, affords us the good drainage the field has enjoyed through the years.

Next came the seeding of grass and an expert was called in to handle this project. Selmar Lehmann, a graduate of the U. of Illinois' College of Agriculture who successfully farmed 2,000 acres off Rt. 104, seeded the fields in three stages starting with rye. Inside a few years, there was an excellent stand of grass.

This done, and it wasn't accomplished overnight, a decision had to be made on the location of a main baseball diamond. The first choice was in the northeast corner of the nearly 12 acres of ground Bishop Hartley had purchased in 1931.

Wrong, said Bud Murphy, a New Yorker who by this time had been in every major league baseball park (prior to expansion). Murphy pulled out a rule book that showed diamonds should be laid out in a way that the batter would be facing northeast.

That's why the baseball field (and properly so) is located where it is today.

"We also decided," advised Engineer Koerner, "to make the right field foul line the goal line for our football field. We placed concrete markers on the 50-yard lines and also the four corners of the football field."

The goal posts erected in 1945 after several weeks of work, are the same goal posts standing today. The same is true with the baseball backstop, with the top reinforced. The Bexo Club put them up to stay.

If this all sounds like one round of beers after another at

Hoffman's and a stroll in the park, then the records should be set straight at this point. It was hard work and more hard work by many people.

Money for the athletic field, which was dedicated by Monsignor Robert Coburn on Aug. 25, 1945, came in dribs and drabs, a few dollars at a time and most of it through the sweat of the Bexo members.

The Bexo Club purchased bingo equipment and, for a very small fee, ran bingos for a number of organizations. The really big event each year was for the Elizabethan Guild at the old Neil House.

The club furnished the manpower and equipment and the treasury gradually grew. It grew much faster with the annual field day, with as much as \$1,000 to \$1,500 realized.

All the money was used, first to build the athletic fields, then to maintain them, and for athletic equipment for St. Catharine School teams.

Presidents of the Bexo Club, in addition to Koerner and Murphy, include Ed Eberle, Ray Eichenlaub, the great Notre Dame fullback who was a charter member of the parish (as was Eberle), T. Vincent Martin, Norman Altman, Harry Nester, Al Klunk, Willard Eidson and John Kavanaugh.

Som of the more active members were Joe and Mike Ryan, Jim Grace, John A. Connor, Harry Ruhl, James Kramer, Dan and Jack Cannon, Al Reitelbach, Tom Buch-



BEXO BOOSTERS—Three men influential in the Bexo Club, which supported the athletic programs at St. Catharine and provided the outdoor playing facilities are, from left, Bob Koerner, L.C. (Bud) Murphy and Paul Tracy. Tracy, who along with his father, was a charter member of the parish, was a part of the Bexo Club almost from its beginning.

anon, Ed Abram, E. Faber Biggert, Dalton Mulloney and Florian Ziegler.

Ziegler's Buckeye Letter Service sent out all announcements, keeping members informed of all activities.

After the field was completed, the club purchased such playground equipment as slides, swings, a jungle gym and outdoor basketball courts. Lines were painted on the black-top behind the new school, where the younger children played games.

Ed Eberle was president of the Bexo Club and his son Mike was captain of St. Catharine's football team in 1941. That team was the first from St. Catharine to win a city championship and the reward was a banquet at the University Club, as guests of the Bexo Club.

Bob White, who became Father Bob White, coached the 1941 team. Members of the team, in addition to Eberle, were Mac McGovern, who became Rev. Arthur F. McGovern, S.J.; Jack Dowd, Tom Boland, Joe Sugar, George Gule III, Al Eichenlaub, Kevin McGovern, Syl Blake, John Kavanaugh, Tom Tracy, Bo Nester, Bill O'Donnell, John Rossback, Mick Ryan, Dick Eidson, Dave Ford and Fred Bateson.

The banquet was held Dec. 4, 1941 and Ed Eberle dedicated this poem to the school's first city champs:

TO ST. CATHARINE'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS—1941

*In other years of hard fought games, passed by,
We think of yesterday, the work you've done.
And when your scores had dimmed your autumn sky,
You had the spirit of a brilliant sun.
Ah, spirit brighter than an angel's wing,
In Forty-one, withdraw that hurtful sting.*

*Determination grim - uniformed clad,
Coaching, passes, drives, and tricky end play.
And then you blocked and held the best they had,
To win victory, and perhaps to-day,
When we meet with you here, to praise and dine,
Hope humility, will glory out shine.*

*When you battled St. John's, that sturdy foe,
You feared, at first, of their reputed bright hue.
Then you pass and pass and kick with your toe;
The game was won, when the last whistle blew.
Oh St. Catharine's, you visioned well your goal,
The championship, was seared upon your soul.
Saint Augustine, next on your victim line,
Then Saint Aloysius fell, with a thud.
Sacred Heart came next, to weep and to pine,
As you wallowed with them, slipping in mud.
Ah, sweetest victory, and All-Star thrills,
Closing the glory, of November Chills.*

E.M.E.

Without the foresight and great dedication of the men mentioned here and many other early parishoners, the outdoor athletic facilities we have today at St. Catharine as the parish observes 50 golden years, would not have been possible.

The facilities, used nearly every night of every summer month and through the fall, stand as a memorial to all who

made the athletic fields and the athletic programs possible.

As Richard Murphy was removing sod in the base lines of one of the pee wee diamonds, preparing for the 1980 summer program, he was reminded that his father and so many others toiled many hours to make it all possible, Richard replied:

"That's why we want to keep all the fields in the best possible condition."

A second generation has been caught up in the St. Catharine spirit . . . a spirit that is taking good care of the next generation.

So, while the Bexo Club came to a screeching halt in the mid-40s, the drive and determination of the Eberles, the Nesters, the Eichenlaubs, the Klunks, Kavanaughs and so many others remain a part of St. Catharine Parish.

The demise of the club seems to have no definite date. But it happened soon after Msgr. Coburn was appointed as first director of the union of parish Holy Name Societies. He saw a conflict in the two and, while the Holy Name Society met with little success down through the years at St. Catharine, the Bexo Club was dissolved.



KNOW THEM?—Two unidentified altar boys at St. Catharine. Picture was taken in late '40s or early '50s. Do you recognize them?



SOUND OF MUSIC—Members of Dr. James R. Trapp's family, like the von Trapps of Austria, have lived in harmony . . . to the sound of music. Here they are shown as they rehearsed for their part in the talent portion of a style show at St. Catharine in 1966. At

the piano are Mrs. (Marilyn) Trapp and Melinda. Standing, from left, are Dr. Trapp, Debbie, Jim, Susan and John. Mrs. Trapp was a music teacher and served as choir director at St. Catharine.

Home-School Association

The parent's organization, first called the PTA (Parent Teachers Association), had its beginning at St. Catharine in 1946. This grew to be extremely active in providing funds for the various school needs.

PTA sponsored many functions, chief of which was the annual bazaar. In 1955, this bazaar realized over \$9,400.

Among their many activities, the organization furnished and ran the school cafeteria.

After a few years of inactivity, the parents' club was re-organized in March of 1972. It was then called the Home-School Association and has kept that name since.

The two-fold reason for starting the Association was to advertise St. Catharine's School with a brochure, which was distributed to 12,000 homes in the Bexley-Eastmoor area, and to introduce our first lay principal, Mrs. Joseph Brosmer.

Since its rebirth, the Home-School Association has been a thriving success. Also, it has been an excellent link between the school and the parents. The Association, through its officers and members, tries to involve all the parents in some activity and to encourage a family-type feeling that has been a St. Catharine tradition from the beginning.

As of 1979, the Home-School Association sponsors the Bloodmobile Program each year, the Fun Festival each spring, a lottery each fall and staffs the bingo games each week.

Money raised from the various programs also maintains our athletic program at St. Catharine, which provides a wide variety of sports for our students.

Annually, the main theme of the Home-School Association is involvement . . . involvement with our children, our school, our teachers and our parish family.

Each year a new goal is established and Association members then work to fulfill that need: improve the library facilities, add audio-visual aids, replace desks, improve the cafeteria, etc. The Association also encourages our parents and children to become public relations people for our school.

In the early 1970s, St. Catharine's School was having financial problems. The Home-School Association decided to start bingo, with all profits benefitting the school.

On Nov. 4, 1974, St. Catharine's had its first bingo in the school cafeteria with an attendance of 114. The attendance and profit fluctuated considerably the first year. It has been an uphill struggle but, as December, 1978, the Association has been operating a very profitable bingo game.

In 1978, off its bingo profits, the Home-School Association, presented a check of \$24,000 to Fr. Borrelli. Bingo netted \$27,000 in 1979 and \$51,000 in 1980.

All this was made possible by several anonymous donors, who made it possible to purchase several thousand dollars worth of equipment. Because of these donors, bingo started debt-free except for a \$500 loan. As crowds increased, bingo moved from the cafeteria to the gymnasium to the undercroft.

As St. Catharine welcomed in the Golden Anniversary year, players at the bingo games were numbering between 175 and 200 every Wednesday evening. Barbara Murphy was in charge of this time-consuming, thankless project from 1974 until Bill Diehl assumed command in 1979. Barb's father, Bill Fernandez, was her left and right hand man.

All proceeds were used initially for the school, as that was the reason it started; and it was staffed by school parents. Now, all monies go into a general parish fund to be used at the discretion of the pastor for the good of the whole parish with the understanding the school never lacks necessary equipment.

Presidents who served the Home-School Association are: Dottie Kurgis, 1973; Sam Hoffman, 1973-75; Jim Klunk, 1975-76; Chuck Baumann, 1976-77; Barbara Murphy, 1977-79; Rob Kuhns, 1979-81.

Many hard-working and generous people have assisted the presidents in the operation of the bingo games. The bingo staffs from both Hartley High School and St. Pius were kind enough to offer many helpful ideas and talk with the workers.

Those who carry 10 or better ratings on a scale of 1 to 10 would have to include Barbara and Jim Murphy, Bill Fernandez, Bud Murphy, Vera Nesser, Tom and Annette Flynn, Jim and Carol Klunk and Bill Diehl.

Also of great help were Helen and Gene Spence and our electrical experts, Bill Reiser and Mathew and Rita Piccolantonio.

One more key link in the success of St. Catharine Parish.



Rev. P.J. Bernier administrator for one year.



AMY PALLAY D. WOLLENBERG

These two girls, along with Nancy Williams and Julie Plank, were on Hartley's first state champs. They were on the 1974 St. Catharine team.

LEAGUE CHAMPS—This 1975 St. Catharine team won the league championship and lost only one game, in the City championship final to St. Timothy. Front row, from left, Nancy Williams, Margaret Prunte, Linda Wirthman, Colleen Murphy, Julie Plank, Jane Kagelmeyer and Diana Cole. Second row, Monica Gugle, Marybeth Devine, Carole Lannon, Charlene Iannarino, Sue Rieser, Rita Prunte and Brenda Speakman. Top row, Debbie Hoffman, Diane Wollenberg, Karen Smith, Lisa Wirtman, assistant coach; Jean Iannarino, head coach; Debbie Wollenberg, assistant coach, Tracy Bringardner and Terri O'Leary.

Girls Athletic Program

The athletic program for girls at St. Catharine did not wait for Title IX.

However, it was not until the late '40s that the girls took part in organized sports.

Alice (Ptacek) DeMastry was the school's first varsity coach and, starting in 1953 she had teams playing league schedules in basketball and softball. A member and star of those early teams was Sister Ellen Dunn.

Miss Ptacek, who married Lee DeMastry, was the St. Catharine coach through 1955-56, at which time Barb Sweeney assumed the coaching duties. She, too, coached for three years.

The 1959-60 season saw the second coaching change and co-coaches with Eileen Rausch and Barbara (Fernandez) Murphy sharing the basketball duties. A year later, softball made a comeback with Katie Ryan and Barbara Murphy serving as coaches for three seasons before Jo Ann Di-Sabito took over for two years. Jo Ann was also varsity basketball coach for two seasons and following her for two years was Carolyn (Bringardner) Klunk.

Jean Iannarino coached the softball team four years, 1969 and 1973-4-5, and was the basketball coach from 1972 through the 1974-75 season. In addition, she was the basketball coach with Terry Fox in the late '60s. Cia (Delawese)

CHEERS—St. Catharine cheerleaders in 1950-51 were, front, from left, Margaret Kearns, Harriet Evans, Sue Schwembley and Ann Blake. Back, Judy Rowen, Nancy Koerner, Eleanor Ferrar and Barbara Stein.



McQuaide had the 1971-72 basketball team after sharing coaching duties the season before with Mary T. Knapp.

In the mid-70s through 1980, there were five softball coaches, Chris Holdrieth, Amy Pallay, the school's first All-Ohio high school basketball player and a member of Hartley's first state championship team; Tom Connor, Steve Vohsing and Sue Rieser.

The longevity title goes, easily, to Mary Ann Brown. She has coached all varsity and reserve volleyball teams (with as many as two teams each in the two levels) in 1975, 1978 and 1979.

Mary Ann coached varsity and reserve basketball teams in 1976, 1977 and 1979, worked with two reserve squads in 1978 and had the Reserve B team in 1980 when Sue Rieser and Carl Lannan coached the varsity and Patty Harris the Reserve A team. Jack Knauer was the varsity coach in 1978.

Volleyball made its debut in 1975 with none other than Mary Ann Brown varsity and reserve coach. Except in 1976 and 1977, when Jack Knauer was in charge of the volleyball program, Mary Ann Brown was the coach of two varsity and one reserve volleyball teams in 1978 and two teams at each level in 1979.

Mary Ann Brown, a St. Catharine graduate, headed up the girls athletic programs for the 1980-81 school year and had as her coaches: Volleyball, varsity, Kathy Groves; 7th grade reserve, Patty Harris; 6th grade reserve, Cathy Holderith; 5th grade reserve, Tom Diehl; Basketball, varsity, Sue Rieser; 7th grade reserve, Patty Harris; 6th grade reserve, Cathy Holdrieth; 5th grade reserve, Linda Strapp; Softball, varsity, Amy Pallay; reserve, Sue Rieser; Cheerleading advisor, Rita Bahlmann.

The trophy case at St. Catharine really runneth over, thanks to our girls. Through the years they have accounted

FIRST COACH—Mary Alice Ptacek DeMastry (right) was the first coach of girls athletic teams at St. Catharine, in 1950-51. She started the school's winning tradition with a championship basketball team in 1954. One of her stars was Ellen Dunn (now Sister Ellen Dunn O.P.), standing next to Mrs. DeMastry. The other girls pictured were not from St. Catharine.



for 21 basketball and four softball trophies.

Sixteen of the trophies are products of the '70s. However, Coach Ptacek had two League Champions in 1954 as her teams at St. Catharine swept basketball and softball titles.

Engraved on that first trophy, basketball, 1954, are the following names: Suzanne Heinmiller, Patricia Rodenfels, Maryanne Lehman, Patricia Ryan, Sandra Johnson, Ellen Dunn, Ellen Morris and Carole Iannarino.

The 1955 basketball team also won the Catholic League championship and in 1959 the Green and Gold won the CYC Senior Division title in basketball.

There were Diocesan or league champions in basketball in 1964, 1974, 1976 and 1979 along with softball titles in 1962 and 1974.

The other trophies were for championship and runnerup finishes at the reserve level and for placing second in varsity competition.

Three-fifths of Hartley High's first Ohio High School girls state championship basketball team was made up of St. Catharine products in Amy Pallay, Julie Plank and Nancy Williams. Plank, Mary Beth Devine and Ann Diehl were stars on Hartley's runnerup team.

Jean Iannarino was the coach of some of the most successful basketball teams in the history of the school. Her 1973, 1974 and 1975 teams compiled a 25-6 record while winning City and league championships and, with Terri Fox, had strong teams in 1967, 1968 and 1969. Additionally, Jean played at St. Catharine in 1964 and was on softball and basketball championship teams.

Four of Miss Iannarino's players, Amy Pallay, Debbie Wollenberg, Julie Plank and Nancy Williams, were starters on Hartley's first state champs. Plank's basket, with seven seconds to play, secured victory in the title game.

Boys Athletics

In the fall of 1931, Ray Eichenlaub Jr. was approached by a schoolmate who asked if he'd like to go out for the football team. It was an automatic "You bet" from the son of the famous Notre Dame fullback, who was told:

"Great. That makes eight. When we get three more we'll have a team."

That was the start of boys athletic programs at St. Catharine. The spirit has remained resolute in the 50 years that have followed.

Records are complete back to 1941 when St. Catharine won its first City football championship under Bob White, who as Fr. Robert White served as principal at Hartley.

In the early years, football was the dominant sport. Dotting the lineups were such familiar names as Tom Tracy, Mike Ryan, Jack Dowd, Art (Mac) McGovern, Tom Boland, Mike Eberle, John Eberly, Ruppert Eichenlaub, Al Eichenlaub, Joe Sugar Jr., and Dave Ford to mention only a few.

Tom Boland, Ken McClure and Sandy Shaw followed Bob White as coaches. The late Fergus Tiebert coached football 1947-50, basketball 1948-50 and baseball in 1950. He had two outstanding athletes in Jack Baumann and Tom Morris. Baumann was a star at St. Charles while Morris excelled at Academy and later at Princeton.

In succeeding years the football coaches were Frank Cannatta, Tom Tracy, Tom Morris (Sr.), Bill Klunk, Tom Krieger, Dick Geyer, Felix Pedon, Lee Distelswag, Jim Moriarity, Jack Knauer, Mario Aluise and, in the final season of 1977, Mike Kelley.

The 1949, 1953, 1956 and 1958 teams won City championships and produced such stars as the Tracy brothers, Jerry Morris, Steve Hagman, Brian Donahue and Frank Carrova.

The '60s belonged to dedicated Felix Pedon, football coach from 1963-70 and baseball coach from 1963-71. Success continued and Pedon's 1967 football team won the City title and had two outstanding players in Jay Gray and Kirk Reitelbach, who was considered by Pedon as the best all-around athlete he ever coached.

Football at St. Catharine felt the impact of the declining enrollment in the '70s and the sport was dropped in 1977.

Basketball's early history at St. Catharine is sketchy at best. Before the new school (and gymnasium), practices were generally held in the Tracy driveway, weather permitting. But even before the school had a gym, it had its first championship basketball team in 1947-48.

With the opening of the new school, St. Catharine started a strong basketball tradition. Under the coaching of Mike Ryan and Tom Tracy, St. Catharine won back-to-back City championships in 1951 and 1952. And it became a habit when Tom Keys took over and saw his teams win everything in 1953 and 1954. Standouts on those title teams of the early '50s were John Ryan, Brian Donahue, Terry Townsend, Jerry Morris, Skip Keys, Bob Koerner, Steve Hagman, Rick Baumann and Herman Knapp. In 1958 another championship was won under Jim Klunk and John Tracy. Mike and John Carr, Johnny Kochensparker and Calvin Loomis formed the backbone of this winning team.

Two great coaches directed the cage teams in the '60s, Dick Geyer, the present Hartley coach, from 1959 to 1963, and Pedon, who ran the show for the next eight seasons. During this period, four teams won championships, topped by City titles in 1961 and 1968. Some of the stars were Eddie Jeffries, Scott Mercer, Rich Murphy, Jay Gray, Kirk Reitelbach, Mike Pedon and Kevin Kurgis.



1949 CHAMPIONS—The squad was too small to hold a regular scrimmage. But this 1949 St. Catharine football team won the City Parochial Elementary championship. The title game was played at St. Vincent's Orphanage on Thanksgiving Day. St. Catharine coach was the late Fergus Thiebert.

Father Thomas McLaughlin, the athletic director, and such Booster Club members as Jerry Galloway, Jack Gordon, Dan O'Neil, Ray Jacobs and Dick Klunk were also great influences on athletes of this era. Pedon remembers mentioning to Galloway that the baseball diamond was in need of some work. The next day there was a bulldozer, grader and two men working on the field.

During the '70s, basketball duties were turned over to three more outstanding coaches in Dick Kelley, Tom King and Jack Knauer. And there were championship teams in 1973, 1974 and 1975 led by Brad Kurgis, Jeff Reiser, Bill Manniere, Joe Erwin, Fritz Ziegler, Andy Stein, Dan Scanlon, Bob Cavallaro, Paul Gibson and Steve Dodd.

The winning touch in basketball carried over into the '80s. Under head coach Dean Pedon (Felix' son) and assistant coach Chris Vail, the 1980-81 St. Catharine varsity team was undefeated while winning the league championship.

Mid-way through the '70s, St. Catharine teams competed in the reserve league and managed to win six championships. Coaches were Jack Knauer, Jim Chelis, Jim Klunk, Bill and Steve Vosing, Doug Hill, Mark and Jeff Holdrieth and Dan Nichter.

Baseball at St. Catharine came into prominence in 1945 with the dedication of the new athletic field provided by hard-working members of the Bexo Club. The first cham-



1953 CITY CHAMPS—This very large and talented St. Catharine squad won the first of its two straight City basketball championships in 1953. The team won 22 of 24 games. Both the 1953 and 1954 champions were coached by Tom Keys. Kneeling, in front, from left, are Dennis Donahue, Denny Hayes, Ed Keys and John Moran. Seated, Don Terman, Steve Hagman, Rick Baumann, Jerry Morris, Pete Warnick, Terry Donahue, Skip Keys and Pat Ryan. Standing, Forrest Claypool, Frank Corrova, Bob Koerner, Nick Zettler, Jack Murphy, Herman Knapp, Joe Ridgeway, Bill Dunn, Mike Connor, Tom Keys and John Connor.

pionship trophy was added to an already bulging trophy case in 1947 with George Bell and Dick Klunk as the coaches. Fritz Bell, Jim Sugar and Ward Sheeran were the standout players.

There were four straight City championship teams starting in 1951. Frank Cannatta coached the first two, with Tom Keys and John Dunkel rewarded with title teams in 1953 and 1954. The spirit of St. Catharine teams was at its zenith in the 1953 City championship game with Immaculate Conception. Trailing 2-0 in the last inning to southpaw Butch DeMatteis, who had never lost a game, St. Catharine made the most of DeMatteis' sudden wildness, an error and a hit by Steve Hagman to win 3-2. DeMatteis allowed only two hits and that's all IC could get off big Jerry Morris. St. Catharine had three outstanding pitchers that year: Morris, Hagman and Bob Koerner. And a power-hitting catcher in Frank Carrova.

A year later, St. Catharine kept its string alive by beating St. Mary Magdalene 6-2 in the championship game at St. Charles as Hagman limited the West Siders to three hits.

Carrova and Skip Keys had two hits each to lead a 6-hit attack. It was St. Catharine's tenth straight victory and the seventh for Hagman. Charles Mentel, a member of the Columbus City Council, was St. Mary Magdalene's third baseman.

In 1961, Dick Geyer's team won the championship with a 10-0 record. Dick remembers the outstanding play of Nick Cenci and Pat Noles. There were some outstanding teams and players but no championships until Jack Knauer produced league champs in 1975, 1976 and 1978 and City champs in 1976. Jack had two fine players in Tom Flynn and Tom Diehl.

Reserve baseball coaches starting with Denny Meyer in 1978 have been Steve Jackson in 1979 and Denny Maciejewski in 1980-81. Their job: taking care of the "farm system."

Football, basketball and baseball were the major sports at St. Catharine until economics caught up with football. But the school has also been well represented in other sports.

As far back as 1941 and again in 1944, St. Catharine won City swimming championships under Harry Thoman, Tom

NEAR PERFECT—
The 1960-61 team had an excellent 19-1 record en route to the City championship, losing only to Holy Spirit 24-21. In a rematch, St. Catharine won 42-25. From left, front row, Managers R. Murphy, J. Burns and P. Loomis. Second row, J. Farley E. Jeffries (co-captain), R. Dunkle, M. Mercer (co-captain) and C. Noles. Third row, Fr. Thomas McLaughlin, M. Phelan, D. Ash, W. Murnane and Coach Dick Geyer. Fourth row, J. Gruber, D. Biersteker, H. Murray, T. Connor, A. Sheridan and R. Massey.



Zuber and the late Dr. Dave Ford.

There were two more swimming titles in 1953 and 1954 under the coaching of Dr. Joe Meara during his senior year in high school and freshman year in college. Denny Evans won his share of points as City diving champion both years.

St. Catharine was also the best in the city in track in both 1953 and 1954 under Tom Keys, who had the good fortune to come along at a time when the school was blessed with some of its greatest athletes. Mike Connor, who also played basketball and football, was the speedster on the track teams. There were no practice facilities at the school. But East High was not that far away and our runners and jumpers prepared for the City meet there.

There has been, as indicated, a large army of fine athletes compete in sports at St. Catharine. But perhaps even more important than this is the great number of youngsters who have been afforded an opportunity to play on an organized team, under the direction of a coach.

The importance of this participation grows when one notes the high attrition rate of the athlete as he advances from one level to the next; first in grade school, later in high school and college and finally, for the very few, as a professional.

An even broader base of competition, on and beyond the varsity and reserve squads, has been offered the youth and young adults at St. Catharine through CYO and CYC basketball programs and through the Summer baseball leagues for school children, boys and girls, age 6 to 12.

St. Catharine has had strong basketball teams in the CYO/

CYC competition for many years. Records indicate that the first St. Catharine championship was in 1951 with a starting five of Don Hagman, Tom Klunk, Bruce Mumm, Tom Casey and Bill Purdy. Another championship was won in 1956 with such familiar names as John Tracy, Jim Lehman, Mike Grace, John Ryan and Tom Kuhn.

There were two strong teams in 1960 and 1961, one going to the finals of the state tournament in Cincinnati. The teams were coached by Forrest Claypool. While he had not reached star status at the time, one of the players was Don Carlos. For him, CYC ball was a springboard to all-time greatness and a fantastic string of scoring records at Otterbein College. His teammates were Claypool, Denny and Terry Donahue, Skip and Ed Keys, Denny Hayes, Steve Hagman, Herman Knapp, Bob Koerner and Pat Ryan. In four years at Otterbein, Carlos scored 2,543 points and hauled down 1,418 rebounds in 93 games, records that have held up for 14 years.

Most dedicated and one of the most successful of the CYC coaches was Lee Ayotte. He coached in the CYC programs for six years from 1968 to 1974. In addition to being a great influence on his young players, Lee produced City championship teams in 1968, 1970 and 1974. The 1968 team went to the state finals, losing in the title game by two points. He took a break from 1975 to 1977 but returned in 1978 and remains in the program.

Ayotte remembers many outstanding St. Catharine players. In this group were Ed Rousch, Dave Bott, Dan

Laufersweiller, Ray Jacobs, Beaver Jacobs, Tom King, Andy Stein and Billy Reiser. Lee stated that beyond the winning teams and great players, the most important aspect of his coaching years at St. Catharine has been the support of parish members who have been responsible for the continuity of the program.

There has been one more sports program at St. Catharine and this one has a co-ed touch with boys and girls age 6 to

12 competing at various age levels in baseball through the summer months.

The "czar" for the first seven years of the program was Jim Klunk. He had a pat answer for detractors (there weren't many) or people who would change the system: "How would you like to take over?" Jim would ask. There were no takers and for a good reason; Klunk was running a good program.



1967 CO-CHAMPS—This 1967 St. Catharine team had a 7-1 record and shared the City championship with St. Augustine. From left, bottom row, E. Essig, T. Kaltenecker, J. O'Neil, A. Connor, G. Essig, T. Mahr and D. Ewing. Second row, M. Connor, J. Herbert, D. Connor, B. Phillips, P. Petrocky, J. Laufersweiller, C. Burkhardt, J. Keene, A. Meyers and T. Klunk. Third row, K. Kaltenecker, R. Williams, S. Berger, J. Galloway, M. Klunk, L. Lombardo, D. Jones and B. Iannarino. Fourth row, J. Scanlon, J. Gardner, D. Connor, R. Jacobs, D. Pedon, T. Monnett, S. Connor, M. Brennan and Coach Felix Pedon. Fifth row, F. Rausch, T. Clark, P. Martin, C. Lerch, J. Brown, G. Macijunes, K. Reitelbach and Russ Williams, assistant coach. Sixth row, P. Caito, J. Goodman, S. Jacobs, K. Kurgis, J. Gray, D. O'Neil and Phil Mirvis, assistant coach.

Summer baseball started with 40 boys. Soon the girls joined in and at the close of the 1980 season there were 200 youngsters playing.

Klunk, whose name has been synonymous with St. Catharine athletics, stepped down at the close of the 1980 season and turned the program over to Rich Murphy and Rob Kuhns, both products of the far-flung St. Catharine system.

On the varsity level, due to their excellence in handling boys, their coaching skills and years of service, it is fitting at this time to especially single out the dedicated work of Fergus Thiebert (1947-50), Dick Geyer (1959-62), Felix Pedon (1963-71) and Jack Knauer (1974-80).

For all the coaches at every level, it was rewarding building championship teams. But it was far more rewarding helping to build good people.



CITY CHAMPS—This 1976 team tackled an ambitious schedule and took the City championship while compiling an 18-15 record. From left, front row, John Plank, Mike Sweeney, Jeff Holdrieth, Kevin Walsh, George Hopkins, Pete Voldness, Greg Posey and Billy Rieser. Back, Mario Aluise, Mark Connors, Bob Thompson, Tom Diehl, Tom Flynn, Denny Jacobs, Paul Thieken, Jeff Cole, Coach Jack Knauer and Henry Yee.

Behind the Scenes

No parish the size of St. Catharine can thrive without the 100 per cent cooperation of a small army of people.

That army, marching to a variety of tunes but with one goal, is made up of secretaries to the priests, in recent years our parish council, organists, choir directors, school secretary, maintenance men and a take-charge person in the school cafeteria.

Comprising still another army would be all our special Ministers, lectors, altar boys, the various choirs, cantors, sacristans ushers and others.

The absence of one segment would not mean immediate chaos. But it would disturb the smooth, day-to-day operation of the parish.

Let both the secretary and maintenance men take a sabbatical, though, and the paralysis would be only a shade short of instantaneous.

All at St. Catharine owe a great debt to the people who have served us so well down through the years, particularly those who have volunteered their services.

No one person, not even a pastor, can take full credit for keeping the giant machine well oiled and operable. The job could not have been done without the women and men, girls and boys who have worked silently and with great dedication behind the scenes. Their reward will come at another time. However, the editor of this 50th anniversary book felt that it would be incomplete without some praise and at



74 YEARS OF SERVICE—Looking on as Lillian Allen (right) serves children in the cafeteria line are Ruth Redinbaugh and Charley Mattingly. Between them, the three have a total of 74 years of service to St. Catharine. Mrs. Redinbaugh, the School's only secretary, has filled that position 27 years. Lillian has operated the cafeteria 26 years and Mattingly was maintenance man at the Church and School for 21 years before his retirement in 1971.

least a partial history about these people.

Because they are the only ones to hold their positions at St. Catharine, the first super stars of this saga are Mrs. Ruth Redinbaugh and Lillian Allen.

Mrs. Redinbaugh has been St. Catharine School's only secretary, a position she has held since the fall of 1954. A call from Ruth to a parent means a child has (1) been running a fever, (2) did not show up for class, (3) needs help in some area or (4) needs a good, hard spanking. In addition to her record-keeping, Mrs. Redinbaugh recovers lost mittens, boots . . . and children. Every day is different for Ruth, even though she has spent more than a quarter of a century with our children and their children.

Talk to many mothers who have worked, without pay of course, in the cafeteria of St. Catharine School, mention the name Lillian Allen and with many, there is little or no response.

But they light up if you change Lillian to "Yea". Like Mrs. Redinbaugh, "Yea", as she was and still is known to so many, has been manager of the cafeteria since November, 1955. At that time, lunch was served to students for 25 cents. When enrollment at the school hit its peak in 1963 (with 540 pupils), "Yea" supervised the preparation and helped serve some 500 lunches daily. During the 1980-81 school year, by contrast, lunch cost 60 cents and the average number of lunches served daily ranged from 135 to 140.

Lillian arrives at the school each day at 7:30 to begin her tasks. She must plan nutritious meals, purchase food and prepare the lunches. And she regularly files reports on her activities with the diocesan office. She admits the six hours she puts in each day add up to hard work. Although not a member of the parish, in fact she is not a Catholic, the woman who has fed our children and grandchildren is a staunch supporter of St. Catharine. Through the years, Lillian could not have survived without help from an endless stream of concerned mothers.

You name it and there's a good chance Charley Mattingly gave it a try during the 21 years he spent at St. Catharine. In view of his many talents, it seems the most appropriate title to give Charley is Director of Almost Everything.

He was paid, starting with Msgr. Coburn, to be the maintenance man for the church, school, rectory, convent and parish grounds. But along the way he did all the usual jobs of a maintenance man while also serving as bus driver, Special Minister, usher, etc. He recalls taking up two collections at one mass "and counting the communicants."

Mattingly, who succeeded John Fairchild to the position in September, 1950, recalls that he had no sooner taken the job when Msgr. Coburn took a year's leave of absence. When Msgr. Coburn returned the following September and Father Paul Bernier was assigned to St. Patrick's in London, Charley was told he had a new responsibility . . . driving the school bus . . . a task Fr. Bernier had handled.

Mattingly, who retired in 1971, spent 18 years as assistant superintendent and superintendent at St. Joseph's Cemetery, before joining a long line of maintenance men at St. Catharine. None matched Charley's 21 years nor the many miles he logged as the school's bus driver. Zelma Roundtree, son of Msgr. Casey's housekeeper, succeeded Mattingly but held the position only for a short time.



ON THE JOB—Ready for action, as she always was during her 15 years as secretary to the priests at St. Catharine is Miss Adele Foley, shown at her desk in the rectory office. For all but 15 months of her 15 years at St. Catharine, her "boss" was Msgr. Joseph Casey.

Present Jack-of-all-trades at St. Catharine is personable Bob Lothamer who, like Mattingly, always seems to find time to handle all his many duties in a skillful manner.

Ruth Redinbaugh, Lillian Allen and Charley Mattingly represent a total of 74 years of service to St. Catharine (through the 1980-81 school year). Only a step behind in years of service is Adele Foley, who was secretary to the priests at St. Catharine from 1955 to December, 1970.

Except from September, 1955, to mid June of 1956, and for her last six months, Miss Foley had one "Commander in Chief", Msgr. Casey.

Adele was hired by Msgr. Coburn. She succeeded Marie Theado, who died June 18, 1955. During Marie's illness, Msgr. Coburn asked for volunteers for office work. Adele recalls, "Throughout the summer of 1955, there was an alternating group of women (volunteers), and finally in September, Msgr. Coburn prevailed upon me to accept the position, as he was in failing health. We worked together for six months. He died on March 15, 1956.

"During my period of service, the only other paid secretarial employee was Mrs. George (Jule) McCaffrey. She was hired during the Fund Raising Campaign for the new church and worked for Mr. Philbin, the director.

Miss Foley also recalled, "The Monday morning collection counting group came into being during Msgr. Casey's early years. Mrs. Ed (Carrie) Brosmer, a widow, prevailed upon Monsignor to allow her to help with this time consuming job and thereby free him for other duties. From time to

time, other ladies joined the group as the work increased. This system prevails today."

Lucille Copeland has served as secretary from Jan. 22, 1977 to the present. Secretaries who served between Foley and Copeland were: Barbara Green, Dec. 1970 to Aug. 1975; Mary Wyman, July 1975 to Sept. 16, 1975; Mary C. Roland, October 1975 to May 7, 1976, and Melinda Trapp, May 1, 1976 to Dec. 31, 1976.

As one of many offshoots of Vatican II, St. Catharine, for the first time, had a Parish Council in 1971. Members have a variety of duties but generally speaking it is an advisory group.

Donald J. Kegelmeyer, who was appointed to the position, was the first president of the St. Catharine Parish Council.

The elected presidents and their terms in office: Dr. Thomas L. Vogel, 1972-74; Daniel A. O'Neil, 1974-76; Mrs. Raymold L. Jacobs, 1976-77; George A. Gummer, 1977-79, and William N. Postlewaite, 1979-81.

Numerically, there are 55 Special Ministers, 40 altar boys, 76 in the various choirs, 33 lectors, 13 sacristans, 24 members of the parish council, eight cantors and approximately 15 ushers. All, naturally, volunteer their time. No parish could afford to pay for this kind of talent. You are fully appreciated by members of St. Catharine Parish.

Least recognized of all the groups, but with the longest service to the parish, are the ushers. Willis Fichtelman was head usher for 23 years before turning the assignment over to Harold Ridenour early in 1981. Others who were ushering at the start of this Golden Anniversary Year or who served for a long period of time in the past:

Frank Boyd, Dennis Murphy, Ed Eberle, Ray Eichenlaub, Leo Roberts, Bud Murphy, George Ryan, Frank Burcu, Jim Bournier, Bill Dollenmayer, Dan and Omar Cannon, Bob Koerner, John Dunkle, George Dickas, Eugene Schweinsberger, Joe Ridgeway, Len Iannarino, Joseph Conte, Francis Sifferlin, Ralph Northstine, Tom Meyers, Roman Krauss, John Prunte, Reed Davidson, Bill Postelwaite, Ed Lynch, Tom Caito, Bill Emig, Dick Eidson and Paul Bennett . . . among others.

Florian Ziegler, who has lived in the parish for all of its 50 years, directed the choir for the first 23 years. There have been six choir directors since. Sister Jean LaSalle was the director until 1955 when Marilyn (Mrs. Robert) Trapp took charge. Mrs. Trapp resumed this duty in 1968 and held the position as the parish observed its Golden Jubilee. Jack Griffin was director from 1957-62, Fr. Thomas McLaughlin 1962-64, Marjorie Koch 1964-65 and Tony Zuccarelli 1965-68.

St. Catharine has had 12 organists starting with Elizabeth Richter in 1931-32. She had another first to her credit: the Richter family was a charter member of the parish. Other organists at St. Catharine were Mary Henley 1932-56, Jack Griffin 1957-62, Marjorie Koch 1962-65, Donna Williams 1965-71, Lydia Cottriss 1971-72, Sister Jane Francis 1972-74, Mike Hammond 1974-75, Fr. Kevin Lutz 1975-76, Marjorie Koch 1976-77, Linda Nolan 1977-80 and Edwin Hopkins, 1980-81. Mary Ann Rogers played for the childrens choir from 1943-50.

How could St. Catharine ever have gotten through 50 years without these people who were behind the scenes? The answer is obvious: the parish never could have made it and all of us are indebted to them.



FATHER MAC AND BOYS—Father Thomas McLaughlin, (back row, far left) is shown with his beloved altar boys. Fr. McLaughlin,

who was assistant to Msgr. Casey from 1960 to 1964, had great rapport with the boys of St. Catharine.



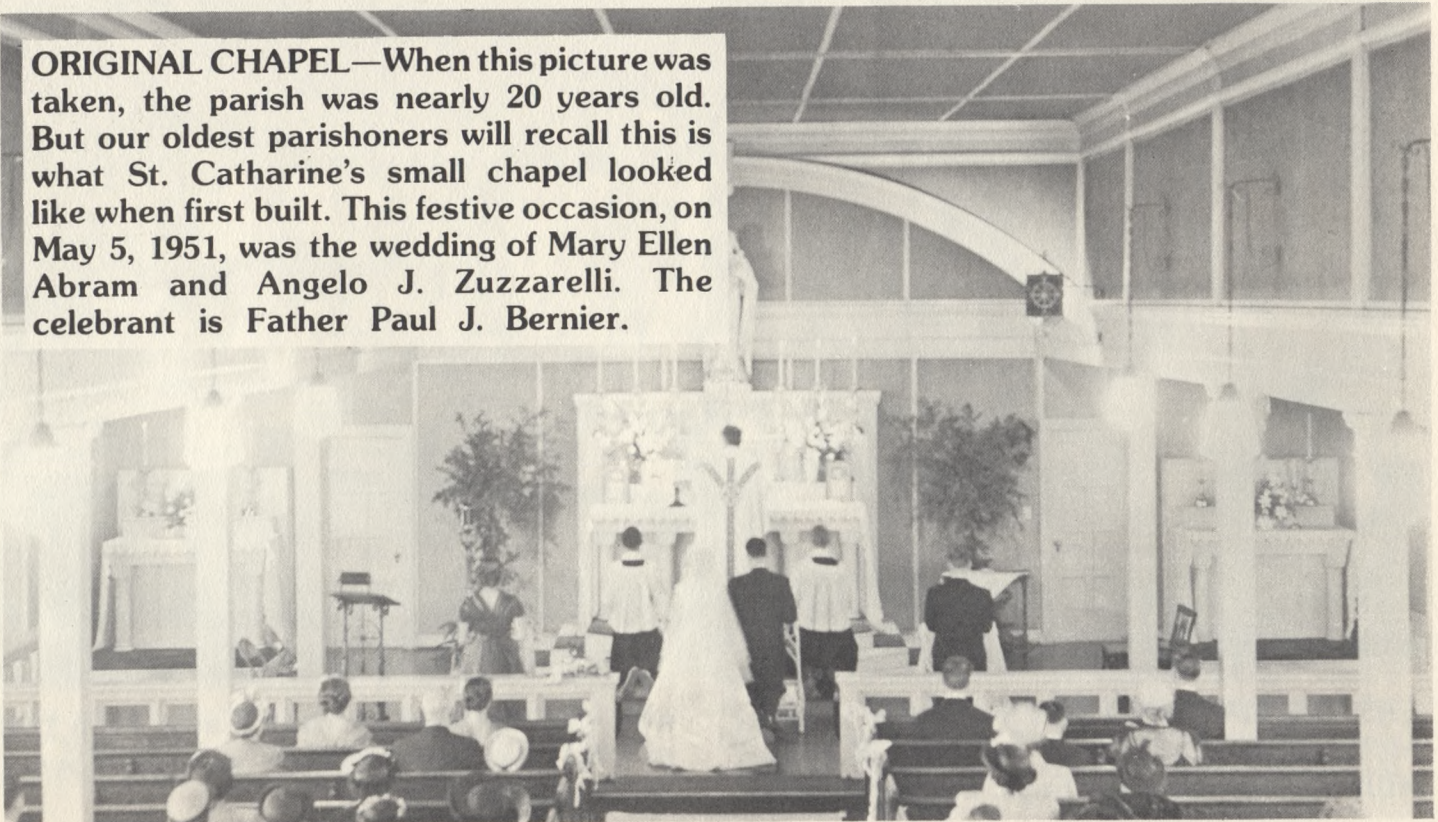
GUILD TEA—Attending a meeting and tea at the apartment of Adele Foley in 1956 were these members of St. Catharine's Guild. From left, Isabel Charles, Marion Dunn (deceased), Alma Simpson, Adele Foley, Betty Biggert, Clara Randolph (deceased), Laurene Hagman (deceased), Lib Yahn, Ruth Wenger and Mary Geist.

SCENES AROUND ST. CATHARINE



OFFERTORY PROCESSION—The John Prunte family was in the Offertory Procession for Midnight Mass, Christmas, 1980.

ORIGINAL CHAPEL—When this picture was taken, the parish was nearly 20 years old. But our oldest parishoners will recall this is what St. Catharine's small chapel looked like when first built. This festive occasion, on May 5, 1951, was the wedding of Mary Ellen Abram and Angelo J. Zuzzarelli. The celebrant is Father Paul J. Bernier.





VOGEL WEDDING—Bernard Patrick Wall, D.D., Bishop of Brentwood, London, England, pronounced Dr. Thomas Vogel and Darina Kelleher man and wife May 29, 1965, at St. Catharine Church. Mrs. Vogel was born in Ireland and raised in England. Shown, front row from left, Anna Macdougald, Charlotte Hogan Vogel, mother of the groom; Aisling Kennedy and Marjorie Keller, mother of the

bride. Back row, J.R. Vogel, Bishop Wall, Patrick Kennedy, Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Patrick Creedon, Dr. Thomas Vogel, Dr. Quinn Dorgan, Mrs. Thomas Vogel, Oonagh Kennedy, David Kennedy, Chief Executive of the Irish International Airlines, and Sara Kennedy. Dr. Vogel's parents were charter members of St. Catharine Parish.



FAMILIAR NAMES—A large cross section of St. Catharine Parish, then and now, is represented in this 1956 photo of altar boys, shown with Msgr. Joseph Casey and Fr. Thomas Cadden. All but one of the boys are identified, the dark-haired youngster at the extreme right in the second row from the bottom. From left, front row, Rick Coffman, Jim Rodenfels, Jeff Seidensticker, Richard Busco, Jack Butler, Tom Butler and Fred Smeltzer. Second row, Steve Kessler, Jim Millar, Steve Simmons, Mike Jacobs, John Simpson, John Regner, Jim Kaufman and our mystery boy. Third row, Calvin Loomis, Mike and John Carr, Frank Gruber, Tom Farley, Marshall Bell, Charlie Iannarino and Michael Mervis. Fourth row, John Dunn, Phil Sheridan, Ronald Marchi, Donald Smeltzer, Donald Knapp and John Masys. Back row, Fr. Cadden, John Kochensparger, Steve Van Heyde, Tom Brosmer, Gene Spence and Msgr. Casey.



GUITAR MASS—Our talented guitar group played and sang at 9:30 Mass Christmas Day, 1980.



CHRISTMAS 1980—Altar boys and special ministers along with lector and priests file from sanctuary following Midnight Mass, Christmas, 1980.



PATRON SAINT—The statue of St. Catharine of Siena can be seen over the main altar of the original St. Catharine Church. The bride and groom are Mr. and Mrs. James B. (Louise Sugar) Albers. The wedding took place Jan. 21, 1950.



JOYOUS DAY—This family gathering took place following Father Thomas McCarthy's First Mass. He was the only priest-son of the parish to say his First Mass in the original church. From left, standing, are Mrs. Phil (Mary Jane) Holdrieth, Mrs. Sadie McCauley, Phil Holdrieth, James McCarthy, Fr. Tom

McCarthy, Mrs. James McCarthy, Mrs. Tom Farrell, Mrs. Carol Fry and Tom Farrell. On either side of Fr. McCarthy are his parents. Mrs. Holdrieth and Mrs. Farrell are sisters of Fr. McCarthy and Mrs. Fry is his god-mother. In front are the Farrell children, Patti, Jim and John.



ALTAR GROUP—Officers and members of the Altar Rosary Society are shown with Father Paul J. Bernier at a DCCW meeting in 1951, when Fr. Bernier was serving as administrator in the absence of Father Coburn. In the front row, from left, are Mary Geist, Mildred Kuhns, Jo Koerner and Mary Belz. Scattered behind them, approximately from left to right, are Carrie Brosmer, Marion Dunn, Freda Lingo, Fr. Bernier, Laureen Hagman, Sara Hooffstetter, Katherine Kaiser, Helen Corbett and Mary Corbett. Brosmer, Kuhns, Corbett and Belz families were in the parish when it started in 1931.



MAY QUEEN—Nancy Koerner was May Queen in 1951. Her attendants are Annett Cenci (left) and Judy Rowen. Flower girl is not identified.

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Our Patron Saint

Who was St. Catharine of Siena, patron saint of our parish?

There are conflicting stories about this 14th century woman, possibly because there were a number of St. Catherines. There was St. Catherine Dei Ricci as well as St. Catherine Laboure, St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catherine of Sweden and St. Catherine of Genoa.

But most of the information contained here is from *The Catholic Encyclopedia for School and Home*, which spells the name "Catherine" as opposed to our "Catharine."

In an age when women look little part in public affairs, Catharine of Siena, born March 25, 1347, at Siena, was adviser to popes and exercised a wide influence on every level of society. She worked tirelessly to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, France, and to unite the church under the true pope.

When Catharine was six, she was taken by her brother Stephen to visit a married sister. As the children walked home, Catharine suddenly stood stock still, gazing up into the sky over the Church of St. Dominic. She said later that she saw a vision of Our Lord seated in glory with Sts. Peter, Paul and John. Up to this moment she had been a gay, care-free child, but this mystical experience changed her completely. She became extremely serious and thoughtful.

Her mother, Monna Lapa, objected when Catharine began to indulge in religious practices that seemed likely to injure her health. The little girl wanted to be alone, to keep silence, to fast. Once she disappeared from home for a day, spending it in a cave praying.

When she was 16, Catharine decided to become a member of the Dominican Third Order, which then followed a severe rule of penance. The members wore the Dominican habit. All the Sienese tertiaries (Third Order members) at that time were either widows or elderly women, and they did not want a young girl as a member.

They accepted her only after considerable discussion, and Catharine thereafter remained in her own little room for three years, coming out only for Mass and the sacraments. She spoke to no one except her confessor. She ate less and less until she was living on bread, water and herbs. She did not use a mattress and slept only a few hours a night. Visions encouraged her, but she was also subjected to spiritual trials. She seemed to herself to be totally abandoned by God.

At the age of 19, she changed her way of life under divine inspiration and returned to the world to work for the salvation of others. She joined the tertiaries in voluntary work in the hospitals and prisons, and worked among the poor.

As Catharine became known in Siena, she began to exercise an extraordinary influence over many of its citizens, chiefly because she was filled with love of all people. A band of devoted friends gathered around her: fellow tertiaries, Dominican priests, and representatives of the leading families, as well as men and women from all walks of life.

Her family lived in a working-class district (Fontebranda). The neighbors there looked on in astonishment at the important and fashionable people who crowded into Catharine's home. Monna Lapa was the object of sympathy, and Catharine was laughingly called "the Queen of Fontebranda."

The small boys there shouted "caterinati" (meaning persons she had bewitched) after the grandees and others who came to her home.

Catharine called the growing circle of friends her children, whether they were younger or older than her. She also spoke of them as her "family." God had given them to her so that she could lead them to Him, and she was dedicated to their defense. The Church has described them as a "school of mystics." They strived to reorder their lives under her direction. They wrote letters at her dictation and helped her in all kinds of negotiations for the peace of the city.

When Father Raymond of Capua was appointed to the Siena community, the Dominican Order also named him Catharine's confessor and spiritual director. This proved to be a helpful association. He was a learned man, influential in the order, and his authority disposed of much of the criticism raised against Catharine. In later years, Father Raymond became master general of the Dominican Order and Catharine's biographer.

Family feuds were one of the great social evils of the period, and Catharine soon became known as a peacemaker. She succeeded in healing quarrels when all others had failed. Soon she was called upon to make peace between warring states. When the Church placed an interdict, an ecclesiastical penalty, on the city of Florence, officials of the city asked her to go to Avignon and plead their cause with Pope Gregory. She readily agreed and took with her on her journey 22 members of her "family."

The popes had by this time lived at Avignon for over 70 years. It was the period described in Church history as the "Babylonian Captivity," during which the Church seemed to reach an all-time low in prestige and discipline.

The quarrel between Pope Boniface VIII and King Philip the Fair of France during the closing year of the thirteenth century had ended with French soldiers taking the Pope prisoner and holding him captive for three days. Although he was then allowed to return to Rome, his health was so effected that he died a few weeks later. His successor also died within a year.

The French king then succeeded in having his own candidate elected as Pope Clement V. Clement was crowned at Lyons in 1305 and took up residence at Avignon. Although the city later came into the possession of the Church, its French character annoyed the rest of Christendom.

The Curia became predominantly French. The Italian cities were governed by French legates who misunderstood the people and were hated by them.

The city of Rome was the scene of endless disorder: the unruly Roman barons fought among themselves; the populace revolted against the legate. The city itself was falling into ruin. Grass was growing in the naves of famous churches; cattle were grazing around the altar of the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Every responsible person agreed on the need for reform, and outside France everyone believed that the beginning of reform was the restoration of the papacy to Rome. Only from the independent See of Peter should the Church speak again with the voice of authority.

The reigning Pope, Gregory XI, had already been in touch

with Catharine. Before her arrival in Avignon, they had exchanged six letters, and she already knew that her advice carried weight with the head of the Church.

Despite her intervention, however, the peace negotiations between the Holy See and Florence broke down. Actually it was not until the time of Gregory's successor that Catharine succeeded in making this difficult peace. Yet the six or seven weeks she spent in Avignon in 1376 make it one of the most memorable years in Church history. Shortly after her arrival, she began to realize that God had sent her there for a greater purpose than to make peace between the Church and Florence. Her real mission was to persuade Gregory to fulfill his secret vow, miraculously revealed to Catharine, to restore the papacy to Rome.

Gregory had been saying for many years that he meant to go back to Rome. When Catharine arrived in Avignon, she urged him to keep his word. The French cardinals took alarm and did everything in their power to get rid of her. They obtained the Pope's reluctant permission to have her defend her spiritual teaching. As a result, three bishops spent one entire day questioning her. She emerged unshaken from the ordeal.

Then a struggle of wills between Catharine and the Pope's advisers closed in around the wavering Gregory: to return to Rome or stay in Avignon. The deciding factor came when Catharine reminded him of his earlier vow to restore the papacy to Rome. Finally, Gregory XI left Avignon on Sept. 13, 1376. Catharine left the same day for Siena.

(You will note that our St. Catharine's Church was dedicated Sept. 13, 1931.)

But Catharine did not enjoy the fruits of success. Gregory's frail health withstood the rigors of the new life for little more than a year. His successor, Urban VI, started the long-overdue reform with such intemperate zeal that soon the whole College of Cardinals turned against him. They declared his election illegal and elected a rival pope, Robert of Geneva, who returned to Avignon. Thus began the Great Western Schism, one of the most serious trials through which the Church ever had to pass.

Urban VI summoned Catharine to Rome to help him bring the schism to an end. She obeyed, setting out from her home for the last time. From the human point of view, it was a tragic destiny for the frail, sensitive woman to become involved in this fierce battle. She was tormented by a sense of responsibility for a terrible sequence of events, since people were saying, "Better a Pope in exile than two Popes."

In Rome, Catharine sent out urgent appeals to her friends in an all-out effort to reunite Christendom under Urban. Her beloved "family" seemed to scatter in panic. Their response was half hearted, and they made one excuse after another for not joining her in Rome. She was disillusioned even in Father Raymond, who did not do all that she felt he should. The great struggle to which she was committed exhausted her, and she died 18 months later, on April 29, 1380, still fighting for Urban's cause.

After her death, the marks of the stigmata received in Pisa five years previously, but which remained invisible in her lifetime, could be clearly perceived on her hands, feet and heart. The most remarkable and powerful figure of her century, Catharine was canonized in 1461 and is now the patron saint of the papacy.



1931-1981

Before leaving Siena for the last time, Catharine dictated a book known as "The Dialogue of Saint Catharine," a celebrated mystical writing. There also remain about 400 of her letters, addressed to all the great personages of her day. These letters are indispensable reading for a knowledge of her vivid, many-sided personality.

Even more is learned about Catharine in the "Saints of the Missal" by Benedict Baur, OSB.

Abbot Baur, in his excellent contribution to liturgical and spiritual literature, points out that Catharine (and that is the spelling in his book) "made the vow of perpetual virginity and began a life of severe penance" at the age of seven.

"Her life of self-denial, her devotion to the care of the plague-stricken in 1374, her miracles, her gift of prophecy, and her power over the hearts of sinners won for her a large circle of adherents and disciples who respected and loved her as their mother.

"Secular and ecclesiastical princes went to her for advice and help. On the other hand, she had to suffer a great deal from the ridicule, insults and suspicious of her fellow citizens. But nothing disturbed her.

"Twenty-third child of the dyer Benincasa, from the age of six Catharine yielded to the mysterious, irrepressible passion of God, and kept away from worldly distractions.

"Courageously she pursued her purpose of obeying God: 'Thy will be done in all things, not mine, I am nothing but darkness; You are light. I am nothing; You are all. I am foolishness; You are the wisdom of the Father.'

"God answered her: 'I am the God who is; you are the one who is not.' It was He who was at work in Catharine, and she gave herself to Him as an instrument of His plans; hence, He overwhelmed her with graces and divine gifts. 'Thou has been a friend to right, an enemy to wrong, and God has given thee an unction . . .' In the midst of all her trials, those rising from her own nature as well as those from without, she clung to the suffering Savior for strength and comfort. She found joy in suffering for love of Jesus.

"Catharine was the incarnation of Christian charity. When the plague broke out in Siena in 1374, she claimed, 'This is the time for me.' Neither ingratitude nor criticism could dampen the ardor of her charity; in fact they served to intensify it. This was an outlet for her love of Christ.

"With her whole being, St. Catharine lived for the Church."

The Back Cover . . .

The back cover of the book is a photograph by Tony Shannon of the Children's Mass, Dec. 24, 1980. Fr. James Ruef was celebrant and Brother David Gonder deacon. The front cover of the book also was by Shannon.

